

TOMPKINS FALLS IN REGIONAL QUARTERS, KATY ADVANCES
SPORTS | B1

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2023

SPECIAL RODEO, SPECIAL PEOPLE



Molly Maher of the Texas Cowgirls rides her paint horse, Tex, in the Feb. 18 Katy Rodeo Parade.
GEORGE SLAUGHTER

A special cowgirl and her horse take their place in the Katy Rodeo Parade

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER
NEWS EDITOR

The annual Katy Rodeo Parade, held Feb. 18, featured the usual assortment of bands, dignitaries and sponsors. But it also featured a rider who took an unusual path to the festivities. Molly Maher is an eighth-

grade student at Katy Junior High and horse enthusiast who, last year, joined the Texas Cowgirls, a mounted drill team. She's also a cancer survivor, currently undergoing chemotherapy that is expected to end in April. She rode her own horse in the parade, thanks to contributions from friends.

Cancer is no stranger to the Maher family. At the end of 2017, Tara Maher, Molly's mother, was diagnosed with breast cancer. She responded to her treatments and is doing well today. In 2021, her father, Mitch Maher, was diagnosed with esophageal cancer. He

See **COWGIRL**, page A3

Special needs rodeo provides special experience for young cowboys, cowgirls alike

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER
NEWS EDITOR

Cowboys and cowgirls come in all forms. And if they have special needs, there's a place for them at the Katy FFA Livestock Show. The special rodeo, designed for life skills students (as the district calls them), is a cherished tradition in Katy. This year, it took place Feb. 15 at the Gerald D. Young Agricultural Sciences Center, 5801 Katy Hockley Cutoff Road.

See **RODEO**, page A3



GEORGE SLAUGHTER

Andrew Horner, left, and Preston Brown (who are seniors at Tompkins High School) dress up as rodeo clowns at the Feb. 15 special rodeo at the Gerald D. Young Agricultural Sciences Center. Horner plans to attend the University of Louisiana-Monroe, major in kinesiology and play football. Brown plans to attend Oklahoma State University and major in education aviation.

Creating partnerships

Coastal Prairie Conservancy teams with farmers, ranchers for land conservation

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER
NEWS EDITOR

The Coastal Prairie Conservancy continues to partner with local farmers and ranchers on land conservation and stewardship as local urban development continues, two conservancy volunteers said. Klynn Harris is a senior at Katy High School and a conservancy volunteer. She

and her father, Chris Harris, provided an overview of the conservancy and its activities at a Feb. 15 Fulshear Area Chamber of Commerce meeting. The monthly meeting was at Parkway Fellowship, 27043 FM 1093, in Richmond. Chris Harris was elected to the conservancy's board of directors last year and serves as council mem-

See **CONSERVANCY**, page A3



GEORGE SLAUGHTER

Chris Harris listens as his daughter, Klynn Harris, speaks about the Coastal Prairie Conservancy at the Feb. 15 Fulshear Katy Chamber of Commerce meeting.

State of Higher Education

Local colleges urge students to consider starting and finishing in Katy

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER
NEWS EDITOR

With Katy's population continuing to grow, officials from local colleges are developing and promoting plans for students to "start in Katy and finish in Katy" as they pursue their higher education goals. Bob Glenn is president of the University of Houston-Victoria. Jay Neal is

associate vice president for academic affairs and chief operating officer of the University of Houston-Sugar Land and the University of Houston-Katy, which has a building at 22400 Grand Circle Blvd. Zach Hodges is president of Houston Community College Northwest, which includes the new Katy campus building at 22910

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GEICO chooses Katy as HQ for its small business insurance operations

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER
NEWS EDITOR

GEICO announced that its Katy office will serve as its headquarters for its small business insurance operations.

In a Feb. 15 ceremony at the Katy office, 21420 Merchants Way, company executives said they had been looking at possible locations for over a year. Jason Andrukonis, GEICO commercial vice president, said GEICO had three criteria: a deep and diverse talent pool, a low cost of living and a location that was welcoming to business.

Andrukonis said as Katy rose to the top of the list, he and Melissa Gallardo, GEICO senior vice president, came to Texas to see Katy for themselves. He said the company held focus groups

which encouraged executives to decide to base GEICO's small business insurance operations here. About half of those associates spoken with were native or long-time Texans, and the other half came later, he said.

"Our associates raved about the quality of life here in Katy," Andrukonis said. "We spent the first 40 minutes talking about the quality of schools."

Discussions also took place about the community's diversity, its amenities, and how, with the cost of living, residents could work toward buying and owning homes.

"This is a slam dunk," Andrukonis said. "This is the place we want to grow in the future."

Gallardo said the company was well-known for its auto insurance business—she joked the GEICO gecko, which she called the

"company spokeslizard," helped with that—but the company was now expanding into the small business insurance market.

There's a lot of market there. She said it was worth \$300 billion. She said the company hoped to change a cumbersome customer experience in signing up for small business insurance, and provide ease, choice and savings as GEICO does in its other insurance businesses. GEICO provides auto, boat, homeowners, motorcycle/ATV and renters insurance in addition to small business insurance.

"There are 33 million small businesses across America," Gallardo said. "Ninety-nine percent of businesses are small business. There's plenty of opportunity for GEICO to grow."

As the company expands its operations, it is looking to hire



GEORGE SLAUGHTER

Jason Andrukonis, GEICO commercial vice president, speaks at a Feb. 15 ceremony in Katy.

about 250 new employees. The current office building has the room to accommodate the new employees, Andrukonis said. The jobs will focus on small business insurance, sales and customer service, she said. For more information about GEICO jobs, visit the website careers.geico.com/us.en.

See **GEICO**, page A3

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Community Calendar

March

MARCH 1

KATY CHRISTIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE NETWORKING LUNCHEON

Katy Christian Chamber of Commerce holds a networking luncheon on the first Wednesday of the month. The March luncheon is from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at Alisha's Mexican Grill, 25725 Katy Freeway. For more information, visit the website katychristianchamber.com.

MARCH 3

TAYLOR JET BAND MULCH FUNDRAISER

Support the Taylor High JET Band by purchasing black, hardwood or red mulch for spring gardening. Mulch is sold in 2.0 cubic foot bags at \$5/bag. Deadline for ordering is March 3. Mulch pickup is from 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at Taylor high school's main entrance, 20700 Kingsland Blvd. Mulch delivery is also available for additional cost. For more information, visit the website jetband.org.

MARCH 3-5

KATY LIONS CARNIVAL

The Katy Lions are celebrating their 50th anniversary on March 3-5 by having a carnival, barbecue cookoff, vendor marketplace and celebration of the different charities and ways the club serves the Katy community.

On March 3, the carnival begins. Tickets are \$1 per ticket or \$4 for five tickets. The barbecue competitors start up their pits and get started slathering, rubbing, and stoking the fires. Trendsetters Market will be setting up a myriad of vendors to showcase all of the local entrepreneurs and craft artists that make Katy such a special place to live.

On March 4, the carnival continues. Both the community of attendees and the official judges will judge the competitors. There will be both a judge-awarded and community-awarded prize. Trendsetters Market will host a second day of vendors, showcasing the amazing works coming out of our little slice of Texas.

On March 5, the carnival continues. All the Lions-supported charities, including Lions Camp, Eye Bank, Lighthouse for the Blind, Leader Dogs, and more, will be featured throughout the day.

For more information, visit www.katylions.org.

MARCH 4

LICENSE TO CARRY CLASS

This 37+ state concealed carry class meets the education requirements for someone to apply for a license to carry (LTC) from Texas as a Texas resident, and a permit from Arizona as a non-resident. The

class is from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at Bass Pro Shops, 5000 Katy Mills Circle. For more information, email contact@mylegalheat.com or call 877-252-1055.

MARCH 4

KATY HISTORIC HOMES TOUR

The Katy Heritage Society opens the historic homes of Katy Heritage Park for self-guided tours. Tours are from 12-4 p.m. at Katy Heritage Park, 5990 George Bush Dr.

MARCH 4

KATY HIGH JAZZ BAND PERFORMS SENTIMENTAL JOURNEY

The Katy High Jazz Band performs at Legacy Stadium. Tickets are \$37.50, or \$275 for a table of eight. Proceeds benefit the Katy High School Jazz Band. Doors open at 6 p.m., and dinner is served at 6:30 p.m. For more information, email sentimental-journeykaty@gmail.com. To purchase tickets, visit tinyurl.com/sj2023khs.

MARCH 10

THE SLAGS TO PERFORM

The Slags, a Houston-based cover band that plays everything from today's hits to past classics, will perform from 9:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m. at Baker Street Pub and Grill, 23501 Cinco Ranch Blvd. For more information, call 713-830-1858.

MARCH 10

FUSSELL SENIOR CENTER CHILI COOKOFF

The Fussell Senior Center is hosting its Annual Chili Cook Off on March 10, and the community is invited to enter. All entries will be judged by a panel of distinguished chili experts. Prizes will be awarded for the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place chili dishes, as well as a People's Choice Award, which will be judged by Fussell's own seniors. Contestants need to bring enough chili to feed approximately 25 people, which should be brought in a slow cooker on later than 10:30 a.m. on the day of the event. For more information and to register, contact Amanda Di Dio at adidio@cityofkaty.com.

MARCH 11

KATY HIGH SCHOOL BIG ART DAY

Katy High School, 6331 Highway Blvd., hosts its first Big Art Day to promote the arts through paintings, drawings, ceramics, sculptures, sidewalk chalk, crafts, music and community. The event, which is from 11 a.m.-2 p.m., features face painting, a kid's craft center and performances, as well as donated art for sale. Proceeds benefit Katy High National Art

Honor Society scholarships and the Houston Food Bank. Cash only for all transactions.

MARCH 17

O'KATY ST. PATRICK'S DAY SHAMROCK SHINDIG

The Fulshear Katy Chamber of Commerce hosts the first-ever O'Katy St. Patrick's Day Shamrock Shindig, which will be from 5-8 p.m. at the Katy Crossing Icehouse, 5733 2nd St., and along Avenue C between 2nd and 3rd streets in downtown Katy. The event is open to the public, with free admission. For more information, call the chamber at 832-600-3221.

MARCH 17

JUSCOZ BAND TO PERFORM

The show is at 7 p.m. March 17 at Toddy Oaks Indoor Outdoor Event Venue, 20120 Franz Road. Proceeds benefited PugHearts Houston Pug Rescue. Tickets start at \$7. For more information, call 281-578-2020 or visit the website toddyoaks.com.

MARCH 18

FARMERS' MARKET

Shop for locally grown produce and locally raised meats, eggs, local raw honey, freshly baked breads and baked goods, jams and jellies, spices, snacks, multi-cultural foods, artisan crafts and gifts, jewelry and so much more. The farmers' market is from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. every Saturday at the Church of the Holy Apostles, 1225 W. Grand Pkwy. S.

MARCH 18

KATY MARKET DAY

The monthly Katy Market Day features vendors, a food truck, beer garden, entertainment, and inflatable attractions for children's entertainment. The event is from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. in historic Downtown Katy. For more information, call Betsy Proctor at 281-391-1993.



MARCH 23

TRI-COUNTY COMMISSIONERS FORUM

The West Houston Association sponsors a forum featuring Fort Bend County Pct. 1 Commissioner Vincent Morales, Harris County Pct. 4 Commissioner Lesley Briones and Waller County Pct. 4 Commissioner Justin Beckendorff, whose precincts intersect in Katy. The forum is from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at Crowne Plaza, 7611 Katy Fwy. For more information, contact the association at 713-461-9378 or at info@westhouston.org.



MARCH 23-25

WILD WEST BREWFEST

The Wild West Brewfest is an all-volunteer created, all-volunteer run charitable event, with all proceeds given back to the local community in student scholarships and donations to charitable organizations. Since its inception, the brewfest has raised and donated almost \$1 million. For more information, visit the website wildwestbrewfest.com.

MARCH 25

KINGSLAND BAPTIST CHURCH INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

Kingsland Baptist Church is hosting a free, family friendly, outdoor food festival celebrating the variety of cultures in the Katy-Houston area. The event also features heritage performances, a global artisan market and activities for kids of all ages. The event is from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at Kingsland Baptist Church, 20555 Kingsland Blvd. For more information, visit the website kingsland.org.

MARCH 25-26

KATY HOME AND GARDEN SHOW

The 17th annual event, which will be at the Gerald D. Young Agriculture Sciences Center, 5825 Katy Hockley Cutoff Road, features plenty of shopping opportunities, food sampling and food trucks. For more information, visit the website katyhomeandgardenshow.com.

MARCH 30

DESIGNER BAG BINGO

A night of bingo, with all proceeds benefit Hope Impacts, which works to long-term sustainable solutions to homelessness. The event is from 5-9 p.m. at the Clubhouse at Firethorne, 28800 S. Firethorne Rd. For more information, call Hope Impacts at 713-705-7884.

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

CLUES ACROSS

- Sea grape
- European public health group (abbr.)
- A way to delight
- Appetizers
- Ancient heralds' wands
- Make a booking
- '__ death do us part
- Pearl Jam frontman
- Spider genus
- Fill with high spirits
- A major division of geological time
- Catch
- An independent ruler or chieftain
- Electronic music style (abbr.)
- Influential Spanish cubist painter
- Illegally persuades
- A way to derive
- British School
- Appear alongside
- Surely (archaic)
- Harsh cry of a crow
- A day in the middle
- Kansas hoops coach Bill
- The longest division of geological time
- The first sign of the zodiac
- Appetizer
- Link together in a chain
- A bacterium
- In a way, forces apart
- Cheese dish
- Combines
- In an inferior way
- Colors clothes
- Dried-up

CLUES DOWN

- Gastropods
- Confusing
- Romanian monetary unit
- The rate at which something proceeds
- A prosperous state of well-being
- Asked for forgiveness
- Makes less soft
- Part of speech
- Outside
- Advice or counsel
- Badness
- Protein-rich liquids
- Not moving
- Call it a career
- Poetry term
- Not wide
- Pastries
- Turns away
- Satisfies
- Gift adornments
- San Diego ballplayers
- Manufacturing plant
- Check or guide
- Dogs do it
- Chilled
- Scorch
- Unproductive of success
- Electronic counter-countermeasures
- Attack with a knife
- Feel bad for
- Enclosure
- Assert
- Geological times
- Midway between east and southeast

Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

SUDOKU

				7				
8	5			4				
2	6		3				7	9
5			6					2
		2			1	6		8
				8				3
			8		6	4		
3	1			4				
								6

Level: Intermediate

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Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

EDUCATION

from page A1

Colonial Parkway. The three men spoke at a Feb. 16 “State of Higher Education” presentation put on by the Katy Area Chamber of Commerce. The presentation took place at the UHV Katy building, which it shares with UHV.

Neal provided an overview of programs at UHV Katy, focusing on nursing and engineering. With nursing, Neal said the university recently welcomed new students at its 14th annual hands of caring event. He said the ceremony emphasizes how students have been supported, and how their own hands will now support others as nurses.

Neal said the nursing program is engaged in the accreditation process and reviewing for continuing accreditation for its bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral nursing degree programs.

For engineering, Glenn said the university has partnered with Houston Community College in a partnership where students are dual enrolled at both schools. They take core classes at HCC and their engineering classes at UHV Katy. When they complete their academy classes, students transition to fulltime UH students to complete their bachelor’s degree program. Engineering majors offered through this

program include computer engineering and analytics, construction engineering, systems engineering and graduate-level courses.

To raise awareness of the program, Neal said the university’s main campus and UHV have collaborated on co-branded promotions in Katy, including the annual Katy Rice Festival, which takes place in October. More such activities are planned, he said.

Raising UHV Katy’s profile is part of its strategic plan, which was completed in the summer of 2021. Neal said the plan identified four priorities: student success, growth, partnerships and community awareness.

UHV Katy, as it moves forward, plans to consider implementing new services and how it might improve existing ones. Neal said UHV Katy is reviewing a study to assess workforce and family needs and strengthen or add programs as needed.

Early results in several industries include manufacturing, electrical and industrial engineers, Neal said. Cybersecurity and data analytics professionals are also in strong demand, as well as clinical health roles.

One key advantage of the partnerships, and keeping things local, is saving money

on tuition. Hodges said the approximate cost of completing associate and bachelor’s degree programs under this partnership is less than \$25,000. Tuition at HCC is between \$4-8,000, and UHV tuition is about \$17,000, he said.

Glenn said UHV, founded in 1973, has an enrollment of 4,176 students and boasts the second-most affordable annual tuition in Texas. Another feature UHV has, he said, is that 63% of its students are first-generation college students.

Although UHV is part of the University of Houston System, Glenn said it is a separate university. And, although the main campus is in Victoria, a two-hour drive from Katy, he said UHV has been in the West Houston region since 2001, serving students in Cinco Ranch, Katy and Sugar Land.

In Katy, Glenn said, the UHV Katy campus offers 101 in-person classes with 908 students enrolled locally. Most classes are offered in the evening, he said.

UHV has partnerships with HCC and other local colleges, Glenn said. It also has corporate partnerships with Amazon and GEICO, and a leadership cohort with Katy ISD to help train future school principals.

CONSERVANCY

from page A1

ber-at-large and mayor pro tem in Katy.

As area urbanization has grown, so has the conservancy’s efforts toward conservation, stewardship, education and outreach, community resilience, and public policy and research. The conservancy, founded in 1992 by duck hunters and rice farmers, originally focused on serving the Katy area. Chris Harris described how the conservancy bought a rice farm and focused just on the general Katy area in Fort Bend, Harris, and Waller counties, and how things expanded since.

“They didn’t want development there,” Harris said. “It’s all community-funded, volunteer-based, all private operations, and all based on donations.”

The conservancy changed its name last year and expanded its focus so it could apply for federal grant money, Chris Harris said. The conservancy now serves Austin, Brazoria, Colorado, Fort Bend, Harris, Jackson, Matagorda, Waller and Wharton counties. Today, he said, the conservancy works to conserve and protect about 30,000 acres. The property includes conservancy-owned land, parks, farms and ranches, and even some land owned by the City of Houston.

“It’s a very large piece of property,” Harris said.

Protection is only part of what the conservancy is trying to do, Harris said. Land conservation efforts activities include conservation easements, fee lands, purchasing development rights and securing land donations.

“We love donated lands,” Harris said. “If you own a large piece of property in the area and want to keep it as a prairie, visit coastalprairieconservancy.org. We’ll be glad to help you out.”

Land stewardship activities include prescribed burns and grazing, invasive species control, prairie restoration and wetlands creation. Local agricultural activities include working with farms and ranches on rice crops, sustainable grazing and cattle ranching.

The conservancy works on public policy issues including roads and mobility,

stream mitigation, transmission lines and resiliency.

Education and outreach activities include educational programming and restoration volunteer activities. The conservancy also has a 9 Natives program intended to promote the value of native plants to pollinators.

“We’re kind of getting to the next stage of wanting people to know what the conservancy is,” Harris said, adding that one such activity is working with Katy High students on the Katy mini-prairie at the high school, 6331 Highway Blvd. Klynn Harris said the conservancy has many outreach and education programs.

In an interview following their presentation, Chris Harris said he thought people didn’t realize how big an organization the conservancy was becoming, or about the amount of land the conservancy mentions.

“We are operating a very large piece of property,” Harris said. “It’s amazing what we’ve been able to do.”

Another misconception, Harris, said, is about how the conservancy works with farmers and ranchers on conservation easements.

“They can contact the conservancy and we will work with them on a conservation easement,” Harris said. “We’re not there to take that person’s property. It’s an agreement the agreement is that they will continue the current use of that land. You are just agreeing that you’re going to use the land for your present use people. There is a taxable benefit.”

Klynn Harris said she and her father have been volunteering with the conservancy as long as they can remember.

“He got me involved,” Klynn Harris said.

“I think I became more involved because she was involved,” Chris Harris said. “When your kids are involved in something, you become involved in something.”

Harris urged listeners to get involved in the conservancy by donating, volunteering and following the conservancy on social media.

COWGIRL

from page A1

responded to his treatments and is doing well today, also.

“Right as we got all of that behind us, over Christmas, early January, Molly was diagnosed with Hodgkin’s lymphoma,” Mitch Maher, who is lead pastor at Redeemer Community Church, said.

Anita Mancini, the longtime Texas Cowgirls director, recalled how she took the call from Tara, saying that Molly couldn’t ride for a couple of weeks because she had to have a procedure. A couple weeks later, Mancini said, Tara called again. Molly had been diagnosed with cancer.

“It was devastating to us as a team and a family,” Mancini said. “The first thing we did was go home and study it.”

Molly has been undergoing chemotherapy and has responded well. She is expected to complete her chemotherapy treatments in April, Maher said.

The Texas Cowgirls rallied around their fellow cowgirl. Molly had been borrowing a horse to ride with the team, but she said she always wanted a horse of her own. Mancini spoke with Diane Walker of Stuff the Sleigh, which has worked with cancer patients and their families.

Mancini said that Stuff the Sleigh, along with the Shelter for Cancer Families, are among the groups that the Texas Cowgirls have donated to over the years. Each year, Mancini said, the Texas Cowgirls bake “Cowgirl Cookies” and sell them, with half the proceeds benefiting local nonprofits. Walker made some calls, and a horse was found and purchased.

Now it was time to give Molly the horse.

The team assembled for a drill at the Feb. 15 special rodeo at the L.D. Robinson Pavilion, which in turn is part of the Gerald D. Young Agriculture Services Center, 5801 Katy Hockley Cutoff Road. Molly did not have a horse when they arrived, but things were about to change.

Mancini asked Molly to hold the reins of a horse so she could go get something. Molly stood there, holding the horse by the reins. Meanwhile, she said, Walker got on the public address system and made a comment about one of the cowgirls wanting a horse.

At that moment, Molly said, Mancini came out with a paint horse that was now Molly’s. It was an emotional moment.

“I was crying, yeah,” Molly said.

The horse has since been renamed Texas Dream—Tex for short—and is a veteran of rodeos and competitions. The horse is being kept at Mancini family’s Blackwater Ranch just north of Katy. There the horse will stay. Some of the other cowgirls keep their horses there, Mitch Maher said. Meanwhile, arrangements are being made so Molly can take care of Tex.

“We just got the horse a few days ago,” Maher said.

At the parade, Molly rode Tex, who, as an experienced parade walker, did his thing. Fellow cowgirls and their horses surrounded Molly and Tex. Mitch walked alongside the group, as did some other parents. But it was easy to spot Molly and Mitch amongst the crowd. They had the biggest smiles.

For more information about the Texas Cowgirls, visit the website texascowgirls.com.

RODEO

from page A1

It’s a big deal for the life skills students. They arrive by school bus at the center, where the mascots and cheerleaders from the nine Katy ISD high schools give them a warm welcome. The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo mascot, along with Houston Texans mascot Toro and Houston Astros mascot Orbit, also make appearances.

“The mascots are all excited about Orbit and Toro,” Joe Bochat, special rodeo organizer and Seven Lakes High FFA advisor, said.

The students go to the L.D. Robinson Pavilion, where they can pet livestock and ride horses and camels. If they’re up to it, a student can ride a mechanical bull. They get to explore and enjoy the livestock show atmosphere.

The special rodeo is also a big deal to the students at the Katy ISD high schools and community volunteers. Bochat said about 164 students and 400 student volunteers participated Wednesday.

Bochat said volunteers from other organizations participate as well.

“The Rotary Club of Katy is providing lunch for our life skills students and our other students,” Bochat said.

The special rodeo has been going strong for over 10 years, Bochat cannot recall precisely how long. The special rodeo was canceled only twice — once due to

the COVID pandemic, the other because of scheduling problems.

Bochat said the special rodeo is not a new idea. Other school districts do similar projects. It takes much work to make the special rodeo happen—and it’s worth it.

“Every time we get ready to have this thing, I just want to throw up,” Bochat said. “It makes me nervous I’m so worked up.”

But then the special rodeo takes place, he said, and he sees the kids having a good time. Teachers tell him that some of their students open up thanks to the fun and welcoming environment. It makes the difference.

“They really get involved in it,” Bochat said. “That keeps me coming back, year after year. I just want it to be a great event.”

Yet the special rodeo is a great event not just because it serves life skills students, but for what it helps teach student volunteers.

“The community supports our kids at the FFA auction,” Bochat said. “The community comes out and supports FFA projects financially. This is something our kids can do to give back to the community. That’s the whole reason I was doing it. All nine FFA chapters have students that serve on our student committee (that does much of the planning). We’re trying to install in the kids the importance of giving back to the community.”

GEICO

from page A1

Angie Thomason, interim president/CEO of the Katy Area Economic Development Council, said GEICO has had an office in Katy for about 10 years. The EDC was involved in helping GEICO

set up shop in Katy then, she said, and was happy to continue that support.

Gallaro said the company has deep Texas ties. She said the company began in 1936 in Fort Worth as the Govern-

ment Employees Insurance Company. She said the goal was to help government employees save 15% or more on insurance—a tag line used in the company’s advertising today.



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Katy Times



Katy CARNIVAL

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Lions Field Day

Sunday, March 5th

Featuring all the charities that our local club supports and works with. Learn about all the ways we serve at www.katylions.org

The mistruths of politics

There are no small number of accusations lately that—shocking as it may be—some of our politicians are lying to us.

Some Republicans shouted the “L” word during President Biden’s State of the Union Address, when he said Republicans wanted to end Social Security and Medicare.

Freshman Republican George Santos spun a lot of yarn during his campaign and many of the things he claimed—such as where he went to high school and college and many other things—were simply untrue.

And Biden himself, reports Reason, makes claims about his policies that makes his even supporters roll their eyes.

Reason refers to last summer’s Inflation Reduction Act, which the president claimed would tame inflation, which does nothing to tame inflation, according to CBS News.

As Reason points out, all of our recent presidents have practiced in their share of mistruths:

“... Joe Biden hardly invented political lying, especially among presidents. His recent predecessors in the Oval Office lied about everything everywhere all at once (Donald Trump), health care policy (Barack Obama), pretexts for war and torture, (George W. Bush), and sex (Bill Clinton).”

And the truth is politicians tell mistruths because we want them to.

When advancing our country’s interests around the world, we want our leaders to be more clever than the dictators we want them to outwit, and cleverness often requires deception.

We punish politicians who tell us we are going to have to cut back on spending or the country will go broke—as we reward those who tell us not to worry about our \$31 trillion debt and that we can most certainly afford more goodies for all.

I just wish we could be more honest about all of our mistruths.

If you are a Republican and can only see mistruth happening on the Democrat side—or a Democrat who only sees misinformation happening on the Republican side—you are not paying close enough attention.

How can you call Republican politicians “election deniers” for questioning the 2020 election without also referring likewise to the Democrats who made the very same claims about the 2016 election? Or vice versa?



TOM PURCELL
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

We punish politicians who tell us we are going to have to cut back on spending or the country will go broke — as we reward those who tell us not to worry about our \$31 trillion debt and that we can most certainly afford more goodies for all.

How can you think that the 2016 election was the most corrupt in history (because your candidate lost) but the 2020 election was the most accurate, well-run election ever conducted (because your candidate won)?

I suppose the only thing that really is true about Republicans and Democrats was said by the great humorist Will Rogers:

“The more you read and observe about this politics thing, you got to admit that each party is worse than the other.”

What it comes down to is we get the leaders we deserve, and if we want them to tell us mistruths, we will keep not addressing our very real challenges — but we will be entertained by fictional solutions that won’t do any of us any good.

I suppose the only saving grace is that the often ridiculous promises and claims that are made by our politicians are never as bad as they could be, as the federal government is the most inefficient organization on the face of the earth.

As Will Rogers explains, that’s something we should be grateful for:

“Those who complain about the high cost of government should be glad we’re not getting all the government we’re paying for.”

Purcell, creator of the infotainment site ThurbersTail.com, which features pet advice he’s learning from his beloved Labrador, Thurber, is a Pittsburgh Tribune-Review humor columnist. Email him at Tom@TomPurcell.com.



Just how clean is your vehicle?

Who needs forensics and gunfire?

My wife and I have been catching up on episodes of “The Mysteries of Laura,” the 2014-16 NBC series starring Debra Messing. Forget murders and chases. The real reason the show resonates with me is because as Laura Diamond juggles the duties of a single mother and police detective, she’s understandably a slob with her car.

Yes, my poor Altima gets woefully neglected inside and out. It’s a magnet for the abundant tree sap in my yard and the interior is home to an archive of fast-food wrappers, receipts, seasonal changes of clothing, mail I dread taking to the kitchen table, books discarded by the public library, broken CDs, etc. No room for an air freshener “tree,” so I duct-tape a couple of Tic Tac mints to the rearview mirror.

It’s like the mobile version of that legendary school locker that houses everything. I mean, there are definitely science experiments being conducted on the floorboard. And I suspect that if I ever have a collision, instead of the airbag deploying, I’ll be greeted with a voice that advises, “Walk it off, walk it off.”

My conveyance has devolved into the opposite of the trope about



DANNY TYREE
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

new cars. You know, “As soon as you drive it off the dealer lot, it loses half its value.” No, whenever I drive off a parking lot, the real estate value of the lot doubles.

Although my car is a 2010 model, it’s a throwback to the 50s. Back then, lots of cars had FINS, and I wouldn’t bet against there being an aquarium somewhere in all the clutter.

Some guys baby their car because of a midlife crisis. I face more of a midwife crisis. (“I think another mouse is experiencing a breech birth in the trunk!”)

I know. You’re supposed to take pride in your vehicle and display it as a status symbol. Well, here’s my status: I’ve got a life! When sandblasting, vacuuming, waxing and decluttering become The Most Important Thing to Do Today, I’ll buckle down. But after all this time, the National Audubon Society fears I would disrupt the migratory pattern of all North American birds. (“Divebomb!”)

Yes, I could stop at one of those Saturday morning fundraiser carwashes, but I would feel guilty about the copious amount of elbow grease it would require. A carwash should be a fun entrepreneurial enterprise for teens, not a lesson in indentured servitude. I’m not out to proselytize, either—I would hate to force the Methodist Youth Group to send out for an exorcist.

Granted, my situation makes me more cautious about traffic violations. You don’t want to hear “May I please see your license and registration?” when your glove compartment is prone to projectile vomiting.

I struggle not to be jealous of those of you who have the time, money and energy to keep your vehicle immaculate. We all have our troubles. (“Oh, pooh, Biff! I ran over a unicorn and it’s going to take AAA a whole five minutes to get here and clean it up.”)

Sometimes I do get riled up about the “perfect” people and daydream about really telling them off, but then a little voice whispers in my ear, “Buddy, can you let us out of the back seat near that big tent? If we’re late, the ringmaster will hire 12 NEW clowns.”

Danny Tyree welcomes email responses at tyreetyrades@aol.com and visits to his Facebook fan page “Tyree’s Tyrades.”

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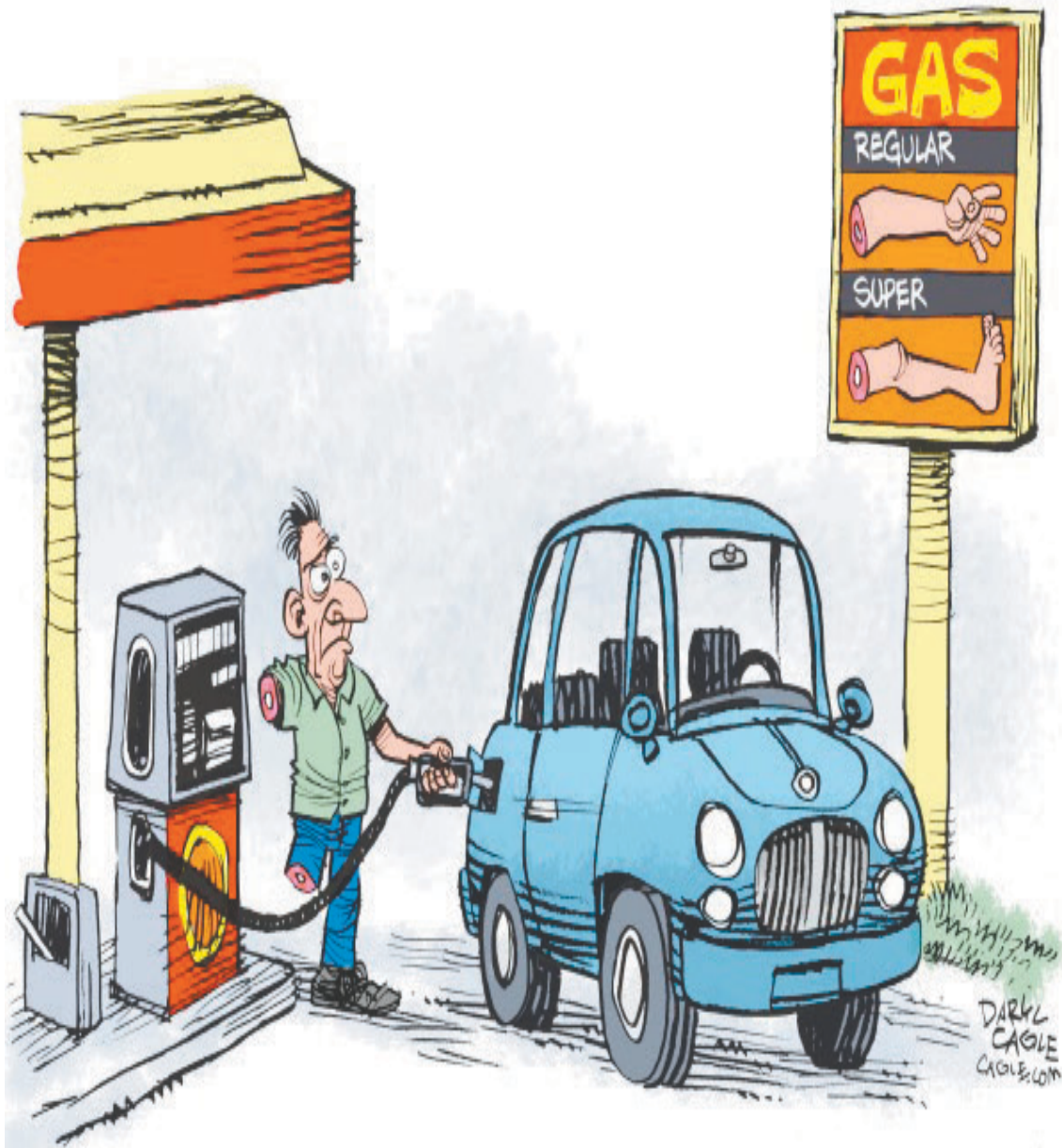
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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Stacy Jacobs joins Katy Area Chamber of Commerce

Stacy Jacobs has joined the Katy Area Chamber of Commerce as vice president, business development.

Jacobs most recently served as director for the University of Houston Small Business Development Center Fort Bend. As a director and business advisor for the center, she helped entrepreneurs and small businesses with starting and growing a business while developing relationship with stakeholders throughout the region. She specializes in business plans, marketing plans, loan packaging, disaster recovery, and SBA financing.

She brings 10 years of hospitality industry experience with brands such as Walt Disney World, Hilton and Marriott. Stacy and her husband started and successfully sold a franchise business, Mosquito Squad of the Louisiana Bayou Region. She is a graduate of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette with a bachelor's degree in hospitality management. Stacy and her husband Jeremy have three daughters, Kenzie, Kara and Kirby, all of whom are attending Katy ISD schools.

Lone Star Symphonic Band and LSSB Big Band perform "All That Jazz" Feb. 26

Contributed Report
The Lone Star Symphonic Band will be performing a joint concert with the LSSB Big Band on Feb. 26. The concert will begin at 4 p.m. at Holy Covenant United Methodist Church, 22111 Morton Road. Tickets are \$7 each and can be purchased by visiting the website, the abbreviated URL for which is bit.ly/3Eo1yXL.

Tickets the day of the concert are \$11



STACY JACOBS



GEORGE SLAUGHTER

Company and civic leaders participated in a Feb. 17 opening ceremony for CarSquad, a pre-owned car dealership, at the company's 15-acre campus at 23592 Katy Fwy. Company officials said the campus is the first one it has built outside of Florida and will include a car reconditioning facility in Brookshire. Pictured are, from left, Matthew Ferraro, President/CEO of the Katy Area Chamber of Commerce; Claire Vidal, CarSquad chief marketing officer; and Mayor Dusty Thiele.

and can be purchased at the door.

Selections to be performed at this concert include medleys of jazz standards by legends like Duke Ellington, Glenn Miller, and Frank Sinatra (*Don't Get Around Much Anymore, Do Nothin' Till You Hear From Me, Sophisticated Lady, It Don't Mean a Thing If It Don't Have That Swing, In The Mood, Moonlight Serenade, I've Got a Gal in Kalamazoo, Serenade in Blue, Little Brown Jug, At Last, Anvil Chorus, Racing with the Moon, Sing Sing Sing, Chattanooga Choo Choo, The Johnson Rag, I'm Getting Sentimental Over You, Don't Sit Under the Apple Tree, Little Brown Jug, Stompin' at the Savoy, Don't Be That Way, Eager Beaver, and Two O'Clock Jump*).

Other selections include New Orleans Sunday Morning by Clifton Jones (includes *Just a Closer Walk, Amazing Grace, and When the Saints...*); *One O'Clock Jump* by Count Basie; *Spain* by Chick Corea and Joaquin Rodrigo; *Big Dipper* by Thad Jones; and *All That Jazz* by John Kander and Fred Ebb.

The Lone Star Symphonic Band is celebrating its 30th anniversary this season.

Cinco Ranch Branch Library hosts job hunter's workshop Feb. 28

The Cinco Ranch Branch Library presents a special workshop for job hunters from 6-7:30 p.m. Feb. 28 in the Multi-Purpose Room of the library, 2620 Commercial Center Blvd.

Workforce Solutions' Regional Facilitator Joshua Allmon will provide tips for job hunters who want to sharpen their job-hunting skills. Those attending will learn how to communicate more effectively by improving their applications, resumes, introductions and interviewing skills.

This workshop is part of a series presented by Workforce Solutions. The next program in the series, "Sharpening Your Interviewing Skills," will be March 20.

The workshop is free and open to the public. For more information, visit the website fortbend.lib.tx.us.

—CONTRIBUTED REPORTS

TRIBUTE

Steve Gates of Sealy, Texas went to be with the Lord on February 13, 2023. Steve was born October 10, 1936, in Barre, Vermont to Gordon and Louva Gates. Steve was 86 years young.

Steve is survived by his wife Georgia Gates, son John

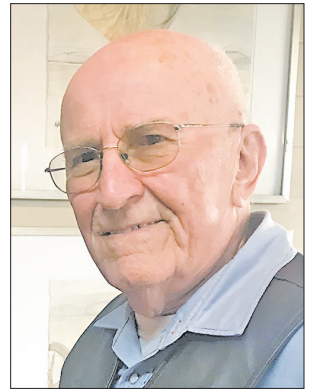
Bunce, daughter Debbie Tangen, grandchildren David (Colleen) Carroll and Danny Carroll and great-grandchildren Ethan and Will Carroll. Steve is also survived by his son Shane Gates and his sisters Mary Lou Williamson and Sue Perry.

Steve was preceded in death by his son David Gates, his sister Jane Capizzi, and his parents Gordon and Louva Gates.

Steve was not born in Texas, but he loved to say that he got here as quickly as he could. After high school, Steve served our country in the US Navy before moving to Oklahoma and beginning a 36-year career with Grainger where he forged many long-lasting friendships. After his retirement from Grainger, Steve seldom stood still and continued productively contributing to society – whether it was mentoring others, delivering newspapers to his neighbors in Sealy or raising his beloved miniature long-horn cattle.

Steve was an avid marksman. He loved to shoot, but not to kill; for Steve was a lover of life. He was always up for an adventure and had an incurable sense of curiosity – almost as big as his love of chocolate pie. Steve's love of life was contagious, and he met every person with a smile and that trademark "How ya doing?" that could get a response from anyone age 3 to 103.

Steve's life will be celebrated at 3:00 PM on Saturday February 25, 2023 at Midway BBQ, 6025 Highway Blvd, Katy Texas 77494.



STEVE GATES
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EDUCATION BRIEFS

Brent Youngblood named Haskett Junior High principal

Katy ISD has named Brent Youngblood as the new principal at Haskett Junior High. Youngblood joins the Haskett Huskies from Mayde Creek High School, where he had been associate principal.

"I am excited to continue building on the great work and traditions that have been established at Haskett Junior High," Youngblood said. "Creating a culture of collaboration that will benefit our Huskies is one of my first priorities. Together with our staff, parents and the Haskett community, we will prepare and inspire each learner to create a bright future."

Youngblood began his educational career in 2010 as a social studies teacher and an assistant basketball coach at Stony Point High School in Round Rock ISD. In 2012, he moved to Houston after accepting a social studies department chair position and a head basketball/softball coach position at Scarborough High School in Houston ISD. As his love for teaching history continued to grow, Youngblood transitioned to Benjamin Davis High School in Aldine ISD where he served as an AP world history teacher and assistant basketball coach. Two years later, he joined Kempner High School in Fort Bend ISD as a social studies teacher and head basketball coach.

In August 2017, Youngblood joined the Katy ISD family and began serving in a campus leadership role as assistant principal at Mayde Creek High School. In 2020, he was promoted to associate principal, where he contributed to staff and leadership development, campus culture, safety and building management, among other responsibilities.

Youngblood holds a bachelor's degree in history from the University of Texas at Austin as well as a Juris Doctor (JD) degree from South Texas College of Law.

Katy ISD awarded nearly \$300K for energy conservation efforts

Katy ISD was recently awarded \$254,564.39 as part of the CenterPoint Energy SCORE (Schools Conserving Resources and Energy) Program and \$39,750 through the new Commercial High-Efficiency Foodservice (CHEF) Program for its energy-saving efforts throughout the district.

"Katy ISD is focused on reducing energy operating consumptions across the district and pursuing Energy Star Certifications for all of our schools," Ted Vierling, Katy ISD chief operations officer, said. "The energy-saving practices implemented throughout our schools and facilities are a testament to Katy ISD's good stewardship with taxpayer dollars."

The SCORE Program, which started in 2006, incentivizes and encourages K-12 school districts to reduce peak electricity demand (kW) and/or reduce energy consumption (kWh) through energy efficiency projects and equipment upgrades.

The CHEF Program is a market transformation program that provides incentives for Houston area businesses and schools in the commercial food service industry. CenterPoint's Energy Star commercial equipment incentive program helps facilities with energy savings while improving kitchen efficiencies. The CHEF Program works closely with the commercial food service industry to educate and encourage the use of energy-efficient equipment.

Katy ISD ensemble students recognized with highest Texas music award

The Texas Music Educators Association (TMEA) has released its all-state results in January following several levels of competition, and 68 Katy ISD students now hold the title of "All-State Musician," the highest honor a music student can receive in the state of Texas.

"Every fall hundreds of Katy ISD en-



Katy ISD was recently awarded \$39,750 through the Commercial High Efficiency Foodservice (CHEF) Program for its energy-saving efforts.



Katy ISD was recently awarded \$254,564.39 through the CenterPoint Energy SCOR (Schools Conserving Resources and Energy Program) for its energy-saving efforts.

semble students begin the competition process at their TMEA region and advance to compete against other student musicians from other regions," Damon Archer, Katy ISD fine arts department executive director, said. "Only the top 2.6 percent of Texas students who audition become All-State Musicians."

The 2023 TMEA All-State Musicians include:

- Cinco Ranch High: Elijah Dycus, String Bass; Rebecca Jung, Violin; Joshua LaPrade, Bass; YuXiang Lu, Piccolo; Noah Machart, Trumpet; Micah Marsh, Tenor; Nikolas Theriault, Bass I; Julia Wright, French Horn; Rachel Yun, Cello; and Evan Zhang, Clarinet.
- Jordan High: Rosemary Chen, Flute; Tiago Ducuron, Bass; Kaitlyn Lewis Soprano; Alakananda Nuthalapati, Alto; Brian

Rhee, Viola; Diane Shim, Soprano; Nathan Xu, Violin; and Sophie Zeng, Violin.

- Katy High: Brennan Ellsworth, Bass; Samuel Gunn, Tenor; Alexander Kappes, Bassoon; Eloise Langan, Alto; Saniya Menzies; Soprano; Jerald Mercado, Tenor; Adyson Owens, Alto; Mackenzie Simkins, Alto; and Joyce Tan, Violin.

- Paetow High: Ariahna Hurtado, Soprano; and Jude Sepulveda, String Bass.

- Seven Lakes High: Chen-Yu Chang, Violin; Christine Clare, Viola; Brady Ji, Viola; Zain Khan, String Bass; Nate Owen, French Horn; Olivia Owen, French Horn; Chan-hee Park, Violin; Joel Park, Cello; Christine Romero, Soprano; Shugo Sakamoto, String Bass; Brian Song, Clarinet; and Bill Sun, Cello.

- Taylor High: Michael Brockmann, String Bass; Ryan Choi, Violin; Ella Jackson, Bassoon; Suzuko Kiriya, Clarinet; Henry Liu, Violin; Jenny Liu, Alto; Santiago Paez, Viola; Ryan Park, Cello; Jonas Ruelas, Trombone; Patrick Spillman, Violin; Sophia Tang, Violin; and Gavin Waterman, Trumpet.

- Tompkins High: Josefina Arnett, Soprano; Anisha Arumilli, Alto; Ahana Bhat, Alto; Bella Chan, Cello; Arjun Chandupatla, Violin; Matthew Chovanec, Percussion; Eugene Chung, Viola; Preston Cole, Tenor; Carly Freeman, Soprano; Jake Jiang, Violin; Lydia Kang, Cello; Kendall Porter, Cello; Kathryn Stokes, Alto; Leah Wu, Bassoon; and Andrew Yang, Cello.

—CONTRIBUTED REPORTS



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WEEK OF FEBRUARY 24

SCORES & SCHEDULES

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Scores

- AREA**
- Katy 54, Jersey Village 38
 - Tompkins 54, Cy-Ridge 43
 - Memorial 63, Seven Lakes 54

REGIONAL QUARTERFINALS

- Katy 50, Hightower 47
- Memorial 62, Tompkins 55

Friday

REGIONAL QUARTERFINALS

- Katy vs. Pearland, 6 p.m. at Campbell Center

BOYS BASKETBALL

Scores

- BI-DISTRICT**
- Seven Lakes 64, Elkins 54
 - Jordan 57, Bush 45
 - Tompkins 66, Clements 56
 - Hightower 65, Taylor 63

Schedule

AREA ROUND

- Seven Lakes vs. Heights, TBA
- Jordan vs. Bellaire, TBA
- Tompkins vs. Cy-Creek, TBA

REGIONAL QUARTERFINALS

- Monday-Tuesday

SOFTBALL

Thursday

- Tompkins at Cy-Woods, 11 a.m.
- Jordan at Stratford, noon
- Taylor vs. Fort Bend Elkins, 1:45 p.m.
- Jordan at Fort Bend Dulles, 1:45 p.m.
- Paetow vs. Harker Heights, 2:30 p.m.
- Cinco Ranch at Liberty, 3 p.m.
- Taylor vs. Sealy, 3:30 p.m.
- Paetow vs. Incarnate Word, 4:15 p.m.

Friday

- Cinco Ranch vs. Cy-Ranch, 10 a.m.
- Katy at Fulshear, 11 a.m.
- Cinco Ranch vs. Klein Oak, 11:45 a.m.
- Paetow vs. Pioneer, noon
- Paetow vs. Flour Bluff, 3:30 p.m.
- Seven Lakes at Pearland, 5 p.m.
- Taylor at Memorial, 6 p.m.
- Jordan vs. Westside, 6:15 p.m.

Saturday

- Paetow at Birdville, 8 a.m.
- Cinco Ranch vs. the Woodlands, 9 a.m.
- Taylor at Stratford, 9 a.m.
- Taylor at Fort Bend Dulles, 10:45 a.m.
- Jordan vs. Cy-Park, 10:45 a.m.
- Katy at Friendswood, 11 a.m.
- Cinco Ranch vs. Bellaire, 12:30 p.m.
- Morton Ranch at Fort Bend Dulles, 12:30 p.m.
- Jordan vs. Sterling, 12:30 p.m.
- Tompkins at Fulshear, 1 p.m.
- Paetow at Latexo, 1:15 p.m.

Monday

- Paetow vs. Bellaire, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday

- Cinco Ranch vs. Mayde Creek, 6:15 p.m.
- Katy vs. Jordan, 6:15 p.m.
- Taylor vs. Tompkins, 6:15 p.m.
- Seven Lakes vs. Morton Ranch, 6:15 p.m.

BASEBALL

Thursday

- Cinco Ranch vs. Fort Bend Austin, 11 a.m.
- Mayde Creek vs. Cy-Woods, 11 a.m.
- Jordan vs. Foster, 11 a.m.
- Katy vs. Lamar, 11 a.m.
- Taylor vs. Fort Bend Travis, 11 a.m.
- Tompkins vs. Ridge Point, 11 a.m.
- Paetow vs. Fort Bend Dulles, 11 a.m.
- Seven Lakes vs. Fort Bend Austin, 2 p.m.
- Cinco Ranch vs. West Brook, 5 p.m.
- Taylor vs. St. Thomas More, 5 p.m.
- Tompkins vs. Tivy, 5 p.m.
- Paetow vs. Waller, 5 p.m.
- Mayde Creek vs. Channelview, 5 p.m.
- Katy vs. San Antonio Reagan, 5 p.m.
- Seven Lakes vs. Cy-Ridge, 5 p.m.
- Jordan vs. Cy-Springs, 7 p.m.

Friday

- Seven Lakes vs. Foster, 11 a.m.
- Cinco Ranch vs. Waller, 11 a.m.
- Taylor vs. San Antonio Reagan, 11 a.m.
- Katy vs. Tivy, 11 a.m.
- Paetow vs. Cy-Ridge, 11 a.m.
- Tompkins vs. Lamar, 11 a.m.
- Cinco Ranch vs. Cy-Springs, 2 p.m.
- Tompkins vs. St. Thomas More, 2 p.m.
- Mayde Creek vs. Fort Bend Clements, 2 p.m.
- Jordan vs. Fort Bend Dulles, 2 p.m.
- Mayde Creek vs. Fort Bend Clements, 5 p.m.
- Seven Lakes vs. Beaumont Central, 5 p.m.
- Taylor vs. Ridge Point, 5 p.m.
- Katy vs. Fort Bend Travis, 5 p.m.

See **SCHEDULES**, page B3

REGIONAL QUARTERFINALS

Tompkins unable to best Memorial



Macy Spencer drives to the basket during Tuesday's Regional Quarterfinal game between Tompkins and Memorial at Coleman Coliseum.

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Tompkins did everything they could to hold off Memorial on Tuesday.

The Falcons fought, they made runs and traded baskets with the Mustangs, they worked hard on both offense and defense, but in the end it just wasn't their day.

Despite a valiant Tompkins effort and a team that gave everything, the Falcons' season came to an end with a 62-55 loss to Memorial in the Class 6A Regional Quarterfinal Round, but it wasn't for a lack of the players giving it their all.

"They hit some big shots, but every time they did, we came back down and hit big shots as well," said Tompkins head coach Tamatha Ray. "We had the answers, but we didn't always get the stops on defense, we were never able to break away and they did from us in the end. That Memorial team is a really good team."

Tompkins came out trading punches from the start and trailed by four after the first quarter but trimmed the Memorial lead to just one heading into half-time behind a strong performance from Macy Spencer, who kept the Falcons in the game despite offensive struggles.

"I didn't want it to end," Spencer said. "This program developed me so much as a person and a basketball player. I've been taught so many lessons and so much discipline from the program and coaches. It's meant so much to me."

The Falcons' offense came alive in the third quarter, as the team hit five three-pointers, but every time they did, Memorial would have an answer and

See **FALCONS**, page B3



Fiyin Adeleye drives into a defender during Friday's game between Tompkins and Cy-Ridge at the Mayde Creek gym.

Tompkins tops Cy-Ridge, moves on to regional quarterfinals

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Tompkins has the luxury of experience.

The Falcons players have been in almost every situation they could go through at the varsity level, and they know how to respond.

So, when Tompkins fell behind double digits in the first quarter on Friday, no one

panicked.

The Falcons seniors knew exactly what they had to do and they adjusted, leading Tompkins to a 54-43 win over Cy-Ridge to clinch a berth to the Class 6A Regional Quarterfinals.

"This team just has a lot of senior leadership and it was a big part of tonight," said Tompkins head coach Tamatha Ray. "Macy

See **TOMPKINS**, page B3

BASKETBALL ROUNDUP

Katy scores first Regional Tournament appearance, 3 boys teams advance

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Katy clinched a berth in the regional tournament on Tuesday, beating Hightower 50-47 in a game that came down to the wire.

A last second 3-pointer from Lyric Barr won the game for Katy, as the two teams were tied with under 15 seconds left before Barr hit the game winner. Barr finished with 21 points in the win as the Tigers continued their strong run that includes a district title this year.

It is the first time in school history that the Tigers have clinched a spot in the

See **BASKETBALL**, page B3



COURTESY KATY ISD ATHLETICS

Jordan won its first boys basketball playoff game by beating Fort Bend Bush on Tuesday.



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Katy's Davis, Ybarra, Tompkins' Funk named first team All-State

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Katy ISD placed three players on the Blue Bell/Texas Sports Writers Association Class 6A All-State First Team and 16 players overall in a strong year for Katy ISD.

Katy led the way with two first team selections, as Seth Davis and Isaiah Ybarra were named to the first team along with Tompkins' Ashton Funk.

Davis had a record setting senior season, where he became Katy and Katy ISD's all-time leading rusher while he and Ybarra made up a run game that helped lead Katy to its third straight state semifinal appearance out of Class 6A-Division II. Funk was a huge

force on the Tompkins offensive line and helped the Falcons get to another playoff appearance.

Katy ISD also had four student-athletes named to the second team in Katy senior center Jacob Egg, Katy sophomore punter Adam Carter, Morton Ranch junior running back Ryan Hall and Paetow senior defensive lineman D.J. Hicks were all named to the team.

Wyatt Young was named an all-purpose player on the third team, after Young changed positions from a running back/wide receiver early in the season to quarterback as the year went on.

And there were a score of players that were honorable mentions from Katy ISD: Morton Ranch senior offensive lineman Zachary

Sessions, Cinco Ranch senior wide receiver Seth Salverino, Cinco Ranch senior quarterback Gavin Rutherford, Tompkins senior kicker Andrew Horner, Katy senior linebacker Blake Geiman, Paetow senior linebackers Alex Kilgore and Daymion Sanford, Katy senior safety Johnathan Hall and Tompkins senior safety Caleb Komolafe.

Denton Guyer's Jackson Arnold was named the offensive player of the year after leading his team to a state semifinal appearance, while Duncanville's Colin Simmons was named the defensive player of the year after leading the Panthers to a state title.

Below is the full Class 6A Blue Bell/Texas Sports Writers Association All-State Team:



MARK GOODMAN | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Morton Ranch's Ryan Hall rushes in for a TD during a conference game between Cinco Ranch and Morton Ranch at Rhodes Stadium in Katy.

FIRST TEAM

OFFENSE

Guards – Isaiah Ybarra, Katy, 6-2, 285, sr.; Harris Sewell, Odessa Permian, 6-5, 305, sr.
Tackles – Nick Fattig, Clear Springs, 6-5, 275, sr.; (tie) Ashton Funk, Katy Tompkins, 6-6, 312, jr.; Tyler Knappe, Austin Westlake, 6-4, 285, jr.
Center – Jackson Felkins, Klein Collins, 6-3, 290, sr.
Wide receivers – Johntay Cook II, DeSoto, 6-0, 170, sr.; Cory O'Bryant, Tomball Memorial, sr.; Marquis Johnson, Dickinson, 6-0, 185, sr.
Tight end – Ka'Morreun Pimpton, North Crowley, 6-6, 220, sr.;
Quarterback – Jackson Arnold, Denton Guyer, sr.
Running backs – Seth Davis, Katy, 5-7, 170, sr.; Caden Durham, Duncanville, 5-9, 180, jr.; Re'Shaun Sanford, Harker Heights, 5-8, 171, sr.
Fullback – Dayshawn Peterson, Alvin, 6-2, 195, sr.;
All-purpose – David Amador, North Shore, 6-0, 180, sr.
Place-kicker – Hayden Arnold, Vandegrift, 5-9, 175, sr.

DEFENSE

Linemen – Colton Vasek, Austin Westlake, 6-6, 240, sr.; Ashton Porter, Cypress Ranch, 6-3, 255, sr.; Kei'Trone Simpson, Duncanville, 6-3, 224, sr.;
Elijah Fields, North Shore, 6-1, 255, sr.
Linebackers – Brandon Booker, DeSoto, 6-1, 190, jr.; Colin Simmons, Duncanville, 6-3, 225, jr.; Makai Williams, Cibolo Steele, 6-1, 213, sr.; Vernon Grant, Duncanville, 5-10, 190, sr.
Secondary – Peyton Bowen, Denton Guyer, 6-0, 185, sr.; Jayven Anderson, North Shore, 6-1, 205, sr.; Calvin Simpson-Hunt, Waxahachie, 6-0, 175, sr.; Caimon Mathis, DeSoto, 6-1, 165, sr.
Punter – Tyler White, Southlake Carroll, 6-3, 202, sr.
Utility – Michael Barrow, Arlington Martin, 5-7, 175, sr.
Kick returner – Khaleb Davis, Hightower, 5-8, 175, sr.
Offensive player of the year – Arnold, Denton Guyer
Defensive player of the year – Simmons, Duncanville
Coach of the year – Reginald Samples, Duncanville

SECOND TEAM

OFFENSE

Guards – Gavin Espinoza, New Braunfels, 5-10, 275, jr.; Jose Zuniga, Edinburg North, 6-2, 275, sr.
Tackles – Jaydon Chatman, Harker Heights, 6-5, 300, sr.; Ian Reed, Vandegrift, 6-6, 315, sr.
Center – (tie) Jacob Egg, Katy, 6-1, 280, sr.; Isaiah Kema, Frenship, 6-4, 298, sr.
Wide receivers – Jonah Wilson, Dekaney, 6-3, 205, sr.; Hunter Summers, Prosper, 6-2, 170, sr.; (tie) Mike Coleman, Vandegrift, 5-6, 145, jr.; Jaden Greathouse, Austin Westlake, 6-3, 220, sr.
Tight end – (tie) Davon Mitchell, Allen, 6-4, 230, soph.; Landon Marsh, New Braunfels, 6-3, 195, sr.
Quarterback – Preston Hatter, Spring Westfield, 6-1, 185, sr.;

Running backs – Owen Allen, Southlake Carroll, 6-0, 205, sr.; Jeremy Payne, Hightower, 5-11, 175, jr.; Kedrick Reescano, New Caney, 6-0, 220, sr.
Fullback – Ryan Hall, Katy Morton Ranch, jr.
All-purpose – Jaelen Smith, Klein Cain, 6-2, 195, sr.
Place-kicker – Kameron Van Prooyen, SA Churchill, 5-9, 170, sr.

DEFENSE

Linemen – Oluwapelumi Olanipekun, Denton Guyer, 5-11, 272, jr.; David Hicks Jr., Katy Paetow, 6-3, 270, jr.; Jermy Jackson, Waxahachie, 6-2, 185, jr.; Armstrong Nnodim, Mesquite Horn, 6-2, 245, jr.;
Linebackers – Hector Hinojos, El Paso East Lake, 6-1, 198, sr.; Cooper King, Stratford, 6-0, 211, sr.; S'Maje Burrell, North Crowley, 6-0, 220, sr.; Jace Gilliam, Permian, 6-0, 185, sr.
Secondary – Javien Toviano, Arlington Martin, 6-0, 185, sr.; Jacoby Davis, North Shore, 5-9, 175, sr.; Alex Foster, Vandegrift, 6-2, 188, jr.; Ryan Yaites, Denton Guyer, 6-1, 195, sr.
Punter – Adam Carter, Katy, 6-1, 245, soph.
Utility – (tie) Brandon Joseph, Dekaney, 6-0, 200, sr.; Keith Abney II, Waxahachie, 5-10, 170, sr.
Kick returner – Evan Jackson, North Shore, 5-11, 170, sr.

THIRD TEAM

OFFENSE

Guards – Jake Hall, Southlake Carroll, 6-3, 290, sr.; Tyler Mercer, Prosper, 6-3, 260, jr.
Tackles – Blake Ivy, Clear Springs, 6-4, 275, jr.; (tie) LaJuan Owens, Fossil Ridge, 6-4, 314, sr.; Ray'Quan Bell, Spring Westfield, 6-4, 305, jr.
Center – Scotty Parker, Lewisville, 6-2, 305, sr.
Wide receivers – Ivan Carreon, Odessa High, 6-6, 195, jr.; Darian Holmes, SA Warren, 6-3, 190, sr.; Landon Ransom-Goelz, Byron Nelson, 6-2, 185, sr.;
Tight end – Hawkins Polley, Stratford, sr.
Quarterback – (tie) Jake Wilson, Byron Nelson, 6-2, 205, sr.; Darius Bailey, DeSoto, 5-10, 190, jr.
Running backs – Quinten Joyner, Manor, 6-1, 215, sr.; Christian Womack, Tomball, 5-11, 180, sr.; Fabian Garcia, San Benito, 5-8, 175, jr.
Fullback – Jeremiah Scoby, Dickinson, 6-3, 190, soph.
All-purpose – (tie) Mikal Harrison-Pilot, Temple, 6-1, 190, sr.; Wyatt Young, Katy Tompkins, 6-0, 185, jr.
Place-kicker – (tie) Carlos Alvarado, Tomball, 5-9, 160, sr.; Julian Melucci, El Paso Eastlake, 5-7, 155, sr.

DEFENSE

Linemen – Robert Legarda, EP Eastwood, 6-3, 245, sr.; Bryson Balka, Spring Westfield, 6-0, 249, jr.; Jordan Renaud, Tyler Legacy, 6-4, 275, sr.; (tie) Dylan Spencer, C.E.; King, sr.; Trey Wilson, Garland Lakeview, 6-3, 250, sr.; Christian Nwosu, Dekaney, 6-2, 230, jr.
Linebackers – Dustan Mark, Southlake Carroll, jr.; Tyler Mitchell, Lake Travis, 6-2, 190 sr.; Jadon Ducos, Humble Atascocita, sr.; (tie) Taurean York, Temple, 6-0, 220, sr.; Christian Brathwaite, Cypress Ranch, sr.
Secondary – Chisom Onwuzurigo,

Hightower, 6-1, 180, sr.; Vernon Glover, Dickinson, 6-0, 180, sr.; Will Courtney, Austin Westlake, 6-2, 185, sr.; Tyler Turner, San Antonio Brennan, 6-0, 190, sr.; D.J. Coleman, Mesquite Horn, 6-1, 195, sr.;
Punter – Scott Starzyk, The Woodlands, 5-10, 160, soph.
Utility – (tie) Bobby Deal, El Paso Pebble Hills, sr.; Amaron Henry, Keller, 6-0, 185, sr.
Kick returner – (tie) Chris Dawn, Mesquite Horn, 5-8, 160, sr.; Da'John Palomo, Spring Westfield, 5-9, 170, sr.

HONORABLE MENTION

Tackles – Kasen Carpenter, Allen, 6-4, 275, sr.; Stephen Flores, Edinburg North, 6-3, 255, sr.; Desmond Magiya, McKinney, 6-4, 275, sr.; Frank Medina, San Benito, 6-2, 260, sr.; Deven Nixon, Cibolo Steele, 6-3, 250, jr.; Drew Perez, Southlake Carroll 6-8, 325, sr.; Roy Reyna, Harlingen, 6-2, 295, sr.; Zach Session, Katy Morton Ranch, 6-4, 295, sr.; Daniel Sowell, Lake Travis, 6-3, 240, sr.; Jack Ziebell, Round Rock Westwood, 6-4, 322, sr.
Centers – Senon Chapple, Fossil Ridge, 6-1, 275, sr.; Justus Perales, Naaman Forest, 6-3, 280, sr.
Wide receivers – Tate Beeles, Frenship, 6-6, 180, sr.; Tristen Brown, Houston Lamar, 5-10, 175, jr.; Aaron Dubose, San Antonio Brennan, 6-4, 175, sr.; Amaron Henry, Keller, 6-0, 185, sr.; Jacob Jordan, Southlake Carroll, jr.; Kyle Koch, Dripping Springs, 6-2, 185, jr.; Gavin McCurley, Byron Nelson, 6-1, 180, sr.; Curtis Murillo, EP Eastwood, 6-2, 175, sr.; Rushil Patel, Plano East, 6-1, 175, sr.; Seth Salverino, Katy Cinco Ranch, 6-1, 195, sr.; Landon Sides, Denton Guyer, 6-0, 180, sr.
Tight ends – Eli Finley, Rockwall-Heath, 6-6, 255, sr.; Dylan Hinshaw, Prosper, 6-3, 230, sr.; Chico Holt, Houston Strake Jesuit, sr.; Ismael Smith-Flores, Arlington Martin, sr.
Running backs – Adeyemi Adeleke, Klein Cain, 5-11, 190, sr.; Lloyd Avant, Summer Creek, 5-11, 190, jr.; Jaydon Bailey, Cibolo Steele, 5-10, 185, sr.; Izaiah Bell, Harlingen, 5-10, 205, sr.; Landen Chambers, Fossil Ridge, 6-0, 215, sr.; Aaron Darden, Byron Nelson, 5-8, 175, sr.; Jacob Gonzalez, SA Harlan, 5-8, 165, sr.; Bryan Jackson, McKinney, 6-1, 230, jr.; Rashaad Johnson, North Shore, 5-10, 215, sr.; Ezell Jolly, Ridge Point, 6-0, 180, sr.; Jack Kayser, Austin Westlake, 5-7, 175, jr.; Sean McKinney, Lockhart, 5-11, 195, sr.; DeJuan Lacy, North Crowley, sr.; Trey Morris, Cypress Falls, jr.; Kriz Pena, Brownsville Hanna, 5-6, 160, sr.
Fullback – Sergio Snider, Arlington Martin, sr.
Quarterbacks – Brayden Buchanan, Vandegrift, 6-2, 205, sr.; Ashton Dubose, San Antonio Brennan, 6-2, 190, sr.; Will Hammond, Hutto, 6-2, 185, jr.; Hudson Hutcheson, Frenship, 6-0, 175, sr.; Keldric Luster, McKinney, 6-0, 225, sr.; Evan Minjarez, EP Eastwood, 6-0, 205, jr.; Austin Novosad, Dripping Springs, 6-3, 195, sr.; Gael Ochoa, EP Pebble Hills, 6-1, 175, jr.; Tucker Parks, Klein Collins, 6-2, 195, jr.; Harrison Rosar, Prosper, 6-0, 180, sr.; Gavin Rutherford, Katy Cinco Ranch, 6-1, 196, sr.; Brennan Storer, Highland Park, 5-10, 190, sr.;
Place-kickers – Andrew Horner, Katy Tompkins, 5-11, 220, sr.; Chase Miller, San Angelo Central, 5-9, 165, sr.; Walker Wright, Dripping Springs, 6-1, 175, sr.

DEFENSE

Linemen – Jorge Alvarado, Laredo Alexander, 6-2, 190, jr.; Nova Bejaren, San Benito, 5-10, 190, sr.; Johnny Bowens, Converse Judson, 6-3, 260, sr.; Manrique Cantu, Brownsville Hanna, 6-2, 245, sr.; Rendell Carter, Lewisville, 6-3, 235, sr.; Jayden Cofield, Manor, 6-3, 335, sr.; Markis Deal, Naaman Forest, 6-6, 295, sr.; Caleb Emery, El Paso East Lake, 6-3, 232, sr.; Elijah Gonzales, Dripping Springs, 6-1, 275, jr.; Ryland Hurts, New Caney, 6-0, 215, sr.; Kaleb James, Mansfield, 6-4, 250, sr.; Theo Randle, Shadow Creek, 6-1, 282, sr.; Zion Taylor, Shadow Creek, 6-2, 235, jr.; Serigne Tounkara, Clear Springs, 6-3, 250, sr.; Griffen Willis, Lake Travis, 6-1, 275, sr.; Branson Winter, Clear Springs, 6-3, 250, sr.; Princewill Umanmielen, Manor, 6-5, 225, sr.; Jack Ziebell, Round Rock Westwood, 6-4, 322, sr.; Brady Zingelmann, Brandeis, 6-3, 195, sr.; Daemian Wimberly, Vandegrift, 6-5, 253, sr.; Oliver Yndo, Vandegrift, 6-3, 230, sr.
Linebackers – Bradley Amwayi, Mesquite Horn, 5-10, 200, sr.; Kaden Baerwald, New Braunfels, 6-1, 210, sr.; Samuel Cerda, Edinburg North, 6-0, 215, sr.; Brady Dalton, Wylie, 6-1 180, jr.; Keegan Demmer, Tomball, 6-0, 190, sr.; Adam Due, Prosper, 6-1, 180, sr.; Derek Edgar, Dripping Springs, 5-8, 185, sr.; Robert Edmonson, Shadow Creek, 6-1, 205, sr.; Gus Fleming-Wood, Mansfield, 5-11, 210, sr.; Nathaniel Gamble, Keller, 6-0, 220, sr.; Brooks Gallagher, Tyler Legacy, 5-9, 180, jr.; Mariano Garcia, San Benito, 6-0, 190, sr.; Blake Geiman, Katy, 5-11, 190, sr.; Ethan Higgins, Prosper, 5-10, 210, sr.; Mason Johnson, Lewisville, 5-7, 200, sr.; Corey Kelly, Clear Falls, 6-2, 210, sr.; Alexander Kilgore, Katy Paetow, 6-2, 215, sr.; Brock Ramzinsky, SA Churchill, 6-1, 215, sr.; La'Markus Reed, Waxahachie, 5-9, 205, sr.; Dylan Rogers, Cypress Woods, 6-3, 235, sr.; Daymion Sanford, Katy Paetow, 6-2, 205, sr.; Liam Scullin, Byron Nelson, 6-0, 215, sr.; Michael Sylvalie, Clear Springs, 6-3, 210, jr.; Daylen Wilson, New Caney, 5-8, 185, jr.; Trey Wilson, L.D.; Bell, 6-4, 240, sr.
Backs – Matthew Anderson, Keller, 5-11, 185, sr.; Patrick Batiste, Klein Cain, 6-0, 165, sr.; CJ Blocker, New Caney, 6-0, 170, sr.; Taylor Davis, Ridge Point, sr.; Jabari Ellison, Dickinson, 5-9, 185, sr.; Xavier Filsaime, McKinney, 6-1, 180, jr.; Keyshawn Garcia, Edinburg North, 6-1, 175, sr.; Johnathan Hall, Katy, 6-2, 210, sr.; Robert Hannah, Waxahachie, 5-8, 170, sr.; Jaydan Hardy, Lewisville, 6-0, 170, jr.; Deaubry Hood, Harker Heights, 5-9, 175, sr.; Greyson Jones, Dripping Springs, 6-1, 18, sr.; Caleb Komolafe, Katy Tompkins, 6-0, 215, sr.; Julian Ledoux, Spring Westfield, 5-10, 180, sr.; Deanthony Mireles, San Benito, 5-10, 180, jr.; Naeten Mitchell, Temple, 5-10, 173, sr.; Josh Moore, Clear Falls, 6-2, 185, sr.; Marcus Moultrie, Harker Heights, 5-11, 190, sr.; Braxton Myers, Coppell, 6-1, 190, sr.; Curtis Murillo, EP Eastwood, 6-2, 175, sr.; Tony Nkuba, Lewisville, 6-2, 165, jr.; Homer Quiroz, San Benito, 5-11, 175, sr.; Jacob Redding, New Braunfels, 6-1, 180, sr.; Jacob Voss, Brandeis, 6-1, 180, jr.; Bryce Woody, Permian, 6-3, 190, sr.
Kick returners – CJ Blocker, New Caney, 6-0, 170, sr.; Jaden Greathouse, Austin Westlake, 6-3, 220, sr.; Marques Miller, Humble, 6-0, 175, sr.



COURTESY KATY ISD ATHLETICS



COURTESY KATY ISD ATHLETICS

Tompkins: Tompkins clinched an area round appearance with a win over Fort Bend Clements.

Katy clinched a berth in the regional tournament with a win over Hightower.

BASKETBALL

from page B1

regional semifinals, the Tigers controlled things through the first half to take a 29-22 lead at half, before Hightower came back to take the lead late in the third. Katy again took a commanding lead in the fourth before Hightower came back to make things close until the very end.

The Tigers move on to face Pearland, which was 53-46 winners over Clear Brook, in the Class 6A Regional Semifinals, 6 p.m. Friday at the Campbell Center, with the winner moving on to the Regional Final at 2 p.m. Saturday.

Three boys teams advance in playoffs

Seven Lakes, Jordan and Tompkins all clinched a spot in the area round with wins in the bi-district round of the playoffs

on Tuesday

Seven Lakes faced a close matchup with Elkins, but managed to pull out a win by winning all four quarters of the game. The Spartans led by three after the first quarter, which they grew to a 30-24 lead at halftime and a 45-38 lead after three, pulling away for a 64-54 win with a strong fourth quarter. A.J. Bates led the way with a strong game, scoring 21 points while adding six rebounds, six assists and four steals. Seven Lakes advances to play Houston Heights, which beat Cy-Fair 52-41.

Jordan had its first ever playoff win by beating Fort Bend Bush 57-45 in a huge win for the Warriors. Jordan led by three after one and went into half up 22-20. But the Warriors turned things up in the second half,

going up 34-30 at the end of the third quarter and turning that into a 12 point win in the fourth quarter. The Warriors were led by Elijah Black and Jaden Holt, who finished with 17 and 14 points in the win. Jordan advances to play Bellaire, which won 38-35 over Memorial in the bi-district round.

Tompkins earned a 66-56 win over Clements to keep their season alive, as the Falcons overcame a tough matchup to advance to the area round. Tompkins held a one point lead after the first quarter, before Clements came back to hold a three point lead at halftime. Tompkins turned things around in the second half, taking a 50-46 lead at the end of the third quarter before going on to seal things in the fourth. Scottie Guillory was a huge part

of the win, scoring 27 points, while Grant Schulerberg had 22 points, Greg Ilagan had nine points and Owen Craig had eight points. The Falcons move on to play Cy-Creek, which came out 75-63 winners over Westbury.

Taylor was the only boys team to fall in the bi-district round, putting up a strong fight against No. 1 seeded Hightower, but falling to a good side 65-63. Taylor trailed throughout the first half, trailing by four at the end of the first and falling behind 43-27 at halftime. But the Mustangs came back with a huge second half, trimming the deficit to four at the end of the third quarter and taking a lead with under two minutes remaining. Hightower sealed things at the line with under 10 seconds remaining.

TOMPKINS

from page B1

(Spencer) and Fiyin (Adeleye) have been here and they know what to do. Macy has been here three years in a row, Fiyin has been here four years in a row and they know what it takes in these games and these moments. They are like extra pieces of the coaching staff on the floor and they help get their teammates in the right positions. After that slow start, they got the entire team right, and the rest responded to get us the win."

It was a struggle of a start for Tompkins, as the Falcons' defense was unable to cope with the Cy-Ranch 3-pointer early. Olivia Shook scored 14 first quarter points, including making four three pointers, as the Falcons allowed five first quarter threes in total while falling behind 21-8.

That was unacceptable for Spencer, and in the huddle heading into the second, she took it upon herself to stop the run, saying she would guard Shook the rest of the way.

"I decided to go on here because I knew that I could force stops," Spencer said. "I have the length to disrupt here and for a guard I have longer closeouts. I knew that would bother her and that was it. I knew it was best for the team for me to guard her and try and slow everything down."

Spencer's defensive presence was felt immediately and for the rest of the game, as Shook was only able to manage six points the rest of the way, with none coming from 3-pointers.

The Falcons started to get back into an offensive rhythm in the second quarter and it came from the high post play of Adeleye, who

opened up the Cy-Ridge zone with her passing and aggressive drives to the basket, helping Tompkins trim the deficit to six points heading into halftime. Tompkins kept that going into the third, quickly taking the lead and control of the game.

"Fiyin has been here, and she knew that she had an opportunity to help her team in a huge way because of the matchup she had," Ray said. "She shouldered that load and it was a great balance between her and Macy. Fiyin was able to attack from that high post and she was exceptional tonight with it."

Spencer led the Falcons with 24 points, while Adeleye added 21 in a huge effort from the duo. The Falcons' defense stepped up as well, holding Cy-Ridge to just 22 points in total over the final three quarters to secure the win.

"I really didn't want to lose tonight," Adeleye said. "I saw the middle was open so I knew I had to attack. I try to facilitate a lot but I knew that tonight my needed me to go at the basket, and so I got aggressive and did what it took to help us win."

This is the third straight year that the Falcons have advanced to the regional quarterfinals, and it's also the point where their season ended last season. They are out to change that and will have that chance when they play Memorial at 6 p.m. Tuesday at Coleman Coliseum.

"We're just going to do us," Spencer said. "Obviously we are going to have to start better, but we're going to go out and there and fight and try to get a dub. That's what it's all about."



DOMENIC GREY | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Fiyin Adeleye drives into the lane during Tuesday's Regional Quarterfinal game between Tompkins and Memorial at Coleman Coliseum.

FALCONS

from page B1

despite 20 third quarter points from Tompkins, they still trailed by four heading into the fourth. Tompkins stayed within striking distance in the fourth but was unable to take the lead, as Memorial sealed things with free throws down the stretch.

Spencer finished the game with 27 points, while Rihanna DeLeon had 10 points to finish as the team's second leading scorer.

It was the second straight trip to the regional quarterfinals for the Falcons and the fourth year in a row Tompkins had reached

at least the area round of the playoffs.

"These seniors, they gave us everything their entire time through the program," Ray said. "They put everything they've had into us. I couldn't have asked for more from the seniors this year, especially from Fiyin (Adeleye) and Macy. That's the hard part of all of this. That chapter closes and none of us wanted it to be done yet."

With the graduation of some of the past two seasons biggest pieces in Spencer, Adeleye and Tanya Philip, the underclassman

of Tompkins know it will take them stepping up this offseason, but that's what Tompkins is all about, and the passing of the torch has always been something that the Falcons take seriously.

"The coaches here are tremendous and it goes from them on down to the players," Spencer said. "All of them, all the teammates I've had here — they've been amazing and I just wanted to be the same for the younger girls once I was one of the leaders. It's always important to do good here and I want them to keep that tradition going."



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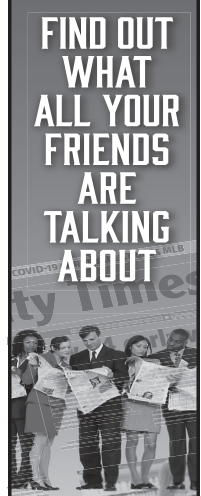
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950 PUBLIC NOTICES

Katy ISD Provides Screenings for Students with Suspected Disabilities

The Katy Independent School District Special Education Department provides screenings for students with suspected disabilities in an effort to identify every student with a disability who lives within the district's boundaries. The screenings are designed to help identify children who may qualify for the district's special education programs.

Students with all categories of disabilities between the ages of three and 21 can be provided with services to ensure their successful participation in school. These services and supports may be provided through Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act or through the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act. Special Education services are also available to children who are visually and/or auditory impaired starting at birth.

If you are aware of a child who may be challenged with a disability, please contact the Katy ISO Special Education office at 281-396-2066. The Special Education office will coordinate efforts to evaluate the student and, if eligible, ensure that the student is provided with supports and services needed to benefit from instruction. Please do not hesitate to call should you have any questions or concerns.

Katy Independent School District
6301 South Stadium Lane
Katy, TX 77494

Katy Independent School District is an equal opportunity employer. The Board of Trustees and its agents, officers and staff members shall not discriminate on the basis of gender, race, disabling condition, age, color, religion, national origin, military status, or any other legally protected status in making decisions regarding staff members or students.

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Mixed Beverage Permit, and a Food and Beverage Certificate by PCH Restaurant Inc, d.b.a. Sushi I Chii to be located at 20900 Katy Fwy, Suite N, Katy, Harris County, Texas 77449. Owner of said corporation is Si Chen.

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Primary License # 195573 - New Wine and malt Beverage Retailer on-Premises Permit application (BG) by Respect the Baguette, LLC dba Cajju Seafood and Grill], to be located at 9555 Spring Green Blvd. Ste. J, Katy, Fort Bend, TEXAS 77494. Officers of said LLC are Operator, Diem Le and Operator, Vinh Le.

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281-391-3141

Legal Notice

SEDALCO Construction Services, serving as Design-Build Contractor, will be receiving proposals from subcontractors and suppliers for Waller County, Texas for the following project until the date and time stated: **County Swing-Space Renovations (Old Julio's Restaurant), 425 FM 1488, Hempstead, TX 77445 by 3:00 PM on Friday, 3/17/23.**

This project is the first step in replacement of the existing courthouse. The county has purchased this property and intends to convert the existing restaurant for their temporary administrative and courthouse functions while the old courthouse is demolished and replaced. The work of this project is anticipated to begin in late March 2023 and complete by May 2023.

Proposals are to be received in accordance with the requirements of Chapter 271.118 of the State of Texas Local Government Code at SEDALCO's corporate office, 4100 Fossil Creek Blvd., Fort Worth, Texas 76137 via email to bids@sedalco.com.

Documents related to this Solicitation may be obtained from SEDALCO, David Ritz via request at bids@sedalco.com or via phone at 817-831-2245.

Notice to Bidders

The City of Katy requests competitive sealed proposals (bids) for selective demolition and renovation for new public restrooms to the Katy Visitors Center building located on a block bounded by Avenue B, 2nd Street, Avenue C, and 3rd Street in downtown in the incorporated limits of the City of Katy, Texas.

Bid Due Date:
Thursday, March 9, 2023, at 10:00am (Bids submitted after 10:00am will not be accepted). Bids will be opened publicly and read aloud immediately after the specified closing time. Interested parties may attend.

Bid will be received at the following Location:
Katy City Hall
901 Avenue C
Katy, Texas 77493

Pre-Bid Conference:
A mandatory pre-bid conference will be held Thursday, February 23, 2023, at 1:30pm at the:
Katy City Hall
901 Avenue C
Katy, Texas 77493

Scope of Work:
The Project consists of construction of the following:

Exterior and interior renovations to provide public restrooms (total of approximately 434 S.F.) to the Visitors Center building. The scope of work includes selective demolition and renovation to accommodate the new restrooms. The work is both exterior and interior.

Evaluation Criteria:
The contract will be awarded to the most qualified General Contractor based on the bidder who provides the best value for the City. In determining the best value for the City, the municipality may consider the following weighted criteria:
(1) the purchase price (30%);
(2) the reputation of the bidder (10%);
(3) the quality of the bidder's goods or services (5%);
(4) the extent to which the goods or services meet the City's needs (10%);
(5) the bidder's past relationship with the City (15%);
(6) the impact on the ability of the City to comply with laws and rules relating to contracting with historically under-utilized businesses and non-profit organizations employing persons with disabilities (5%);
(7) the total long-term cost to the municipality to acquire the bidder's goods or services (5%); and
(8) the completeness of the bid (20%).

The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all Bids and to waive irregularities in the bidding. In case of ambiguity or lack of clearness in stating the prices in the Bid, the Owner reserves the right to consider the most advantageous construction thereof or to reject the Bid.

Bid and Bond Requirements:
Each Bid shall be accompanied by a Bid Bond, the "bid security", in an amount of not less than ten percent (10%) of the total amount bid, as a guarantee that the successful bidder will enter into a proper Contract and execute Bonds and Guaranty on the forms provided within five days after the Notice to Proceed is received by the General Contractor. Bid sureties will be returned to all but the three lowest acceptable bidders the day of opening the Bids, and the remaining bid sureties will be returned after execution of the Contract.

The successful bidder must furnish Performance, Payment, and Maintenance Bonds on the forms furnished with the Bid, in the amounts of one hundred percent (100%) of the contract price, from a surety company acceptable to the Owner. A completed Form 1295 Certificate of Interested Parties must accompany the bid.

Bid Documents:
Plans and specifications will be available on Thursday, February 16, 2023, at the CivCastUSA website <https://www.civcastusa.com>.

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



AMENDED NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF APPLICATION AND INTENT TO OBTAIN WATER QUALITY PERMIT

PROPOSED PERMIT NO. WQ0016239001

APPLICATION. Enclave Gassner Tract, LLC, 24 Greenway Plaza, Suite 970, Houston, Texas 77046, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for proposed Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) Permit No. WQ0016239001 (EPA I.D. No. TX0143685) to authorize the discharge of treated wastewater at a volume not to exceed a daily average flow of 210,000 gallons per day. The domestic wastewater treatment facility will be located approximately 0.50 miles northeast of the intersection of Sport Flyers Lane and Gassner Lane, in Waller County, Texas 77423. The discharge route will be from the plant site to an unnamed ditch; thence to Brookshire Creek; thence to Bessies Creek; thence to the Brazos River Below Navasota River. TCEQ received this application on October 17, 2022. The permit application is available for viewing and copying at Brookshire Pattison Library, 3815 6th Street, Brookshire, Texas. This link to an electronic map of the site or facility's general location is provided as a public courtesy and not part of the application or notice. For the exact location, refer to the application.
<https://gisweb.tceq.texas.gov/LocationMapper/?marker=-95.940277,29.835833&level=18>

ALTERNATIVE LANGUAGE NOTICE. Alternative language notice in Spanish is available at <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/wastewater/plain-language-summaries-and-public-notice>. El aviso de idioma alternativo en español está disponible en <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/wastewater/plain-language-summaries-and-public-notice>.

ADDITIONAL NOTICE. TCEQ's Executive Director has determined the application is administratively complete and will conduct a technical review of the application. After technical review of the application is complete, the Executive Director may prepare a draft permit and will issue a preliminary decision on the application. **Notice of the Application and Preliminary Decision will be published and mailed to those who are on the county-wide mailing list and to those who are on the mailing list for this application. That notice will contain the deadline for submitting public comments.**

PUBLIC COMMENT / PUBLIC MEETING. You may submit public comments or request a public meeting on this application. The purpose of a public meeting is to provide the opportunity to submit comments or to ask questions about the application. TCEQ will hold a public meeting if the Executive Director determines that there is a significant degree of public interest in the application or if requested by a local legislator. A public meeting is not a contested case hearing.

OPPORTUNITY FOR A CONTESTED CASE HEARING. After the deadline for submitting public comments, the Executive Director will consider all timely comments and prepare a response to all relevant and material, or significant public comments. **Unless the application is directly referred for a contested case hearing, the response to comments, and the Executive Director's decision on the application, will be mailed to everyone who submitted public comments and to those persons who are on the mailing list for this application. If comments are received, the mailing will also provide instructions for requesting reconsideration of the Executive Director's decision and for requesting a contested case hearing.** A contested case hearing is a legal proceeding similar to a civil trial in state district court.

TO REQUEST A CONTESTED CASE HEARING, YOU MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN YOUR REQUEST: your name, address, phone number; applicant's name and proposed permit number; the location and distance of your property/activities relative to the proposed facility; a specific description of how you would be adversely affected by the facility in a way not common to the general public; a list of all disputed issues of fact that you submit during the comment period and, the statement "[I/we] request a contested case hearing." If the request for contested case hearing is filed on behalf of a group or association, the request must designate the group's representative for receiving future correspondence; identify by name and physical address an individual member of the group who would be adversely affected by the proposed facility or activity; provide the information discussed above regarding the affected member's location and distance from the facility or activity; explain how and why the member would be affected; and explain how the interests the group seeks to protect are relevant to the group's purpose.

Following the close of all applicable comment and request periods, the Executive Director will forward the application and any requests for reconsideration or for a contested case hearing to the TCEQ Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled Commission meeting.

The Commission may only grant a request for a contested case hearing on issues the requestor submitted in their timely comments that were not subsequently withdrawn. **If a hearing is granted, the subject of a hearing will be limited to disputed issues of fact or mixed questions of fact and law relating to relevant and material water quality concerns submitted during the comment period.**

MAILING LIST. If you submit public comments, a request for a contested case hearing or a reconsideration of the Executive Director's decision, you will be added to the mailing list for this specific application to receive future public notices mailed by the Office of the Chief Clerk. In addition, you may request to be placed on: (1) the permanent mailing list for a specific applicant name and permit number; and/or (2) the mailing list for a specific county. If you wish to be placed on the permanent and/or the county mailing list, clearly specify which list(s) and send your request to TCEQ Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below.

INFORMATION AVAILABLE ONLINE. For details about the status of the application, visit the Commissioners' Integrated Database at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/cid. Search the database using the permit number for this application, which is provided at the top of this notice.

AGENCY CONTACTS AND INFORMATION. Public comments and requests must be submitted either electronically at <https://www14.tceq.texas.gov/epic/eComment/>, or in writing to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Office of the Chief Clerk, MC-105, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. Please be aware that any contact information you provide, including your name, phone number, email address, and physical address will become part of the agency's public record. For more information about this permit application or the permitting process, please call the TCEQ Public Education Program, Toll Free, at 1-800-687-4040 or visit their website at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/pep. Si desea información en Español, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040.

Further information may also be obtained from Enclave Gassner Tract, LLC at the address stated above or by calling Ms. Krystal Regner, PE., Assistant Project Manager, EHRA Engineering, at 713-784-4500.

Issuance Date: January 20, 2023

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INVITATION TO BIDDERS

Sealed Electronic Bids addressed to **Board of Directors, Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 171**, will be electronically received, until **10 a.m. Local Time, Friday, March 10th, 2023** and then publicly opened and read at the offices of SWA Group Landscape Architects, 712 Main St., 6th Floor, Houston, Texas 77002 for **“Elyson Heritage Boulevard Landscape”**, Harris County, Texas. In addition to the opening of sealed Bids at the address above, you may view the public opening of sealed Bids via Zoom. Join the meeting from your computer at <https://swagroup.zoom.us/j/8408644870>.

Scope of Work for the Contract includes, but is not limited to, the construction of sprinkler irrigation, grading, fencing, pedestrian concrete trail, grassing, planting, and landscape maintenance.

Bids received after the closing time will not be considered. A **MANDATORY** pre-bid conference will be held **Monday, February 27th, 2023, at 2 p.m.** Local Time, via ZOOM. Join the meeting from your computer at <https://swagroup.zoom.us/j/8408644870>. Attendance by each prospective bidder or its representative at the pre-bid conference is **MANDATORY**, and no Bid will be opened unless the bidder or representative was present at the pre-bid conference.

Each Bid must be accompanied by a Bid Bond or a certified or cashier's check, acceptable to the Owner, in an amount not less than two percent (2%) of the total amount Bid, as a guarantee that the successful bidder will enter into the Contract and execute the Bonds on the forms provided and provide the required insurance certificates within seven (7) days after the date Contract Documents are received by the Contractor. If a certified or cashier's check is provided, the successful bidder shall deliver, at the bid opening address, the *original* certified or cashier's check within twenty-four (24) hours of receipt of the bid opening.

Copies of the bidding documents may be reviewed and obtained from www.CivcastUSA.com: search **NWC112**. Bidders must register on this website in order to view and/or download specifications, plans, soils report, and environmental reports for this Project. There is **NO** charge to view or download documents.

A bidder submitting electronic Bids must submit its Bid and Bid Securities in compliance with Owner's Order Adopting Section 49.2731 Electronic Bidding Rules and all electronic Bids and Bid Securities must be submitted through www.CivcastUSA.com. Bidder must register on this website in order to submit a Bid and Bid Security and there is no charge to submit Bids and Bid Securities on this website.

By submitting a Bid, bidder acknowledges and agrees that the Contract Documents may be accepted, executed or agreed to through the use of an Electronic Signature, as defined by and in accordance with Owner's Electronic Signature Rules for Construction Contracts.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all Bids and to waive all defects and irregularities in bidding or bidding process except time of submitting a Bid. The successful bidder, if any, will be the responsible bidder which in the Board's judgment will be most advantageous to the District and result in the best and most economical completion of the Project.

The requirements of Subchapter J, Chapter 552, Government Code, may apply to this Bid and the Contractor agrees that the Contract can be terminated if the Contractor knowingly or intentionally fails to comply with a requirement of that subchapter.

COMISIÓN DE CALIDAD AMBIENTAL DEL ESTADO DE TEXAS



MODIFICADO AVISO DE RECIBO DE LA SOLICITUD Y EL INTENTO DE OBTENER PERMISO PARA LA CALIDAD DEL AGUA PERMISO PROPUESTO NO. WQ0016239001

SOLICITUD. Enclave Gassner Tract, LLC, ubicado en el **24 Greenway Plaza, Suite 970, Houston, Texas 77046**, ha solicitado a la Comisión de Calidad Ambiental de Texas (TCEQ) para el propuesto Permiso No. WQ0016239001 (EPA I.D. No. TX0143685) del Sistema de Eliminación de Descargas de Contaminantes de Texas (TPDES) para autorizar la descarga de aguas residuales tratadas en un volumen que no sobrepasa un flujo promedio diario de 210,000 galones por día. La planta está ubicada aproximadamente a 0.50 millas al noreste de la intersección de Sports Flyers Land y Gassner Lane, en el condado de Waller, Texas 77423. La ruta de descarga es del sitio de la planta hasta una zanja sin nombre; de allí a Brookshire Creek; de allí a Bessies Creek; de allí al río Brazos debajo del río Navasota. TCEQ recibió esta solicitud el 17 de septiembre de 2022. La solicitud de permiso estará disponible para leerla y copiarla en la Biblioteca Brookshire Pattison, 3815 6th Street, Brookshire, Texas antes de la fecha de publicación de este aviso en el periódico. Este enlace a un mapa electrónico de la ubicación general del sitio o instalación se proporciona como una cortesía pública y no como parte de la solicitud o notificación. Para la ubicación exacta, consulte la solicitud.
<https://gisweb.tceq.texas.gov/LocationMapper/?marker=-95.940277,29.835833&level=18>

AVISO ADICIONAL. El Director Ejecutivo de la TCEQ ha determinado que la solicitud es administrativamente completa y conducirá una revisión técnica de la solicitud. Después de completar la revisión técnica, el Director Ejecutivo puede preparar un borrador del permiso y emitirá una Decisión Preliminar sobre la solicitud. **El aviso de la solicitud y la decisión preliminar serán publicados y enviado a los que están en la lista de correo de las personas a lo largo del condado que desean recibir los avisos y los que están en la lista de correo que desean recibir avisos de esta solicitud. El aviso dará la fecha límite para someter comentarios públicos.**

COMENTARIO PUBLICO / REUNION PUBLICA. Usted puede presentar comentarios públicos o pedir una reunión pública sobre esta solicitud. El propósito de una reunión pública es dar la oportunidad de presentar comentarios o hacer preguntas acerca de la solicitud. La TCEQ realiza una reunión pública si el Director Ejecutivo determina que hay un grado de interés público suficiente en la solicitud o si un legislador local lo pide. Una reunión pública no es una audiencia administrativa de lo contencioso.

OPORTUNIDAD DE UNA AUDIENCIA ADMINISTRATIVA DE LO CONTENCIOSO. Después del plazo para presentar comentarios públicos, el Director Ejecutivo considerará todos los comentarios apropiados y preparará una respuesta a todo los comentarios públicos esenciales, pertinentes, o significativos. **A menos que la solicitud haya sido referida directamente a una audiencia administrativa de lo contencioso, la respuesta a los comentarios y la decisión del Director Ejecutivo sobre la solicitud serán enviados por correo a todos los que presentaron un comentario público y a las personas que están en la lista para recibir avisos sobre esta solicitud. Si se reciben comentarios, el aviso también proveerá instrucciones para pedir una reconsideración de la decisión del Director Ejecutivo y para pedir una audiencia administrativa de lo contencioso.** Una audiencia administrativa de lo contencioso es un procedimiento legal similar a un procedimiento legal civil en un tribunal de distrito del estado.

PARA SOLICITAR UNA AUDIENCIA DE CASO IMPUGNADO, USTED DEBE INCLUIR EN SU SOLICITUD LOS SIGUIENTES DATOS: su nombre, dirección, y número de teléfono; el nombre del solicitante y número del permiso; la ubicación y distancia de su propiedad/actividad con respecto a la instalación; una descripción específica de la forma cómo usted sería afectado adversamente por el sitio de una manera no común al público en general; una lista de todas las cuestiones de hecho en disputa que usted presente durante el periodo de comentarios; y la declaración "Yo/nosotros) solicito/solicitamos una audiencia de caso impugnado". Si presenta la petición para una audiencia de caso impugnado de parte de un grupo o asociación, debe identificar una persona que representa al grupo para recibir correspondencia en el futuro; identificar el nombre y la dirección de un miembro del grupo que sería afectado adversamente por la planta o la actividad propuesta; proveer la información indicada anteriormente con respecto a la ubicación del miembro afectado y su distancia de la planta o actividad propuesta; explicar cómo y porqué el miembro sería afectado; y explicar cómo los intereses que el grupo desea proteger son pertinentes al propósito del grupo.

Después del cierre de todos los periodos de comentarios y de petición que aplican, el Director Ejecutivo enviará la solicitud y cualquier petición para reconsideración o para una audiencia de caso impugnado a los Comisionados de la TCEQ para su consideración durante una reunión programada de la Comisión. La Comisión sólo puede conceder una audiencia de caso impugnado sobre los temas que el solicitante haya presentado en sus comentarios oportunos que no fueron retirados posteriormente. Si se concede una audiencia, el tema de la audiencia estará limitado a cuestiones de hecho en disputa o cuestiones mixtas de hecho y de derecho relacionadas a intereses pertinentes y materiales de calidad del agua que se hayan presentado durante el periodo de comentarios.

LISTA DE CORREO. Si somete comentarios públicos, un pedido para una audiencia administrativa de lo contencioso o una reconsideración de la decisión del Director Ejecutivo, la Oficina del Secretario Principal enviará por correo los avisos públicos en relación con la solicitud. Además, puede pedir que la TCEQ ponga su nombre en una o más de las listas correos siguientes (1) la lista de correo permanente para recibir los avisos del solicitante indicado por nombre y número del permiso específico y/o (2) la lista de correo de todas las solicitudes en un condado específico. Si desea que se agregue su nombre en una de las listas designe cual lista(s) y envíe por correo su pedido a la Oficina del Secretario Principal de la TCEQ.

CONTACTOS E INFORMACIÓN A LA AGENCIA. Todos los comentarios públicos y solicitudes deben ser presentadas electrónicamente vía <https://www14.tceq.texas.gov/epic/eComment/> o por escrito dirigidos a la Comisión de Texas de Calidad Ambiental, Oficial de la Secretaría (Office of Chief Clerk), MC-105, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. Tenga en cuenta que cualquier información personal que usted proporcione, incluyendo su nombre, número de teléfono, dirección de correo electrónico y dirección física pasarán a formar parte del registro público de la Agencia. Para obtener más información acerca de esta solicitud de permiso o el proceso de permisos, llame al programa de educación pública de la TCEQ, gratis, al 1-800-687-4040. Si desea información en Español, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040.

También se puede obtener información adicional del Enclave Gassner Tract, LLC a la dirección indicada arriba o llamando a Krystal Regner, P.E., Asistente Gerente de Proyectos, EHRA Engineering, al 713.784.4500.

Fecha de emisión 9 de febrero de 2023

INVITATION TO BIDDERS

Sealed Bids addressed to Katy Development Authority, Attention Mr. Jonas W. Conner, President, Board of Directors, will be received at City of Katy City Hall, 901 Avenue C, Katy, Texas 77493, until **11:00 a.m. local time, Thursday, March 9, 2023**, and then publicly opened and read for **“Cane Island Parkway Boulevard Expansion – Franz Road to Swift Way”** for Katy Development Authority, of Harris County, Texas.

Scope of Work of the Contract includes the construction of the additional lanes to complete the boulevard section of Cane Island Parkway from Franz Road to Swift Way. The total roadway length is approximately 4,400 linear feet. The project involves completing the boulevard section by constructing the other two travel lanes, associated turn lanes, median cuts and installation of drainage inlets. The project also includes the installation of a new traffic signal at the Cane Island Parkway and Franz Road intersection, additional curbs ramps and crosswalks, as well as constructing the westbound travel lanes on Franz Road.

Bids received after the closing time will be returned unopened. A **NON-MANDATORY** virtual pre-bid conference will be held on **Thursday, March 2, 2023, at 2:00 p.m. local time via Zoom.us**. Attendance by each prospective bidder or its representative at the pre-bid conference is **NOT MANDATORY**.

Information for joining the virtual meeting is given below:

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86079014467>
Meeting ID: 860 7901 4467
Dial In: +13462487799,,86079014467# US (Houston)

Each Bid must be accompanied by a Bid Bond or a certified or cashier's check, acceptable to the Owner, in an amount not less than five percent (5%) of the total amount Bid, as a guarantee that the successful bidder will enter into the Contract and execute the Bonds on the forms provided and provide the required insurance certificates within seven (7) days after the date Contract Documents are received by the Contractor.

Copies of the bidding documents may be reviewed and obtained from www.CivcastUSA.com. Bidders must register on this website in order to view and/or download specifications, plans, soils report, and environmental reports for this Project. There is **NO** charge to view or download documents.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all Bids and to waive all defects and irregularities in bidding or bidding process except time of submitting a Bid. The Successful Bidder, if any, will be the responsible Bidder which in the Board's judgment will be most advantageous to the District and result in the best and most economical completion of the Project.

The requirements of Subchapter J, Chapter 552, Government Code, may apply to this Bid and the Contractor agrees that the Contract can be terminated if the Contractor knowingly or intentionally fails to comply with a requirement of that subchapter.

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February 16 Puzzle Answers

A	R	N	O		M	A	P		B	A	S	S				
N	A	A	C	P		A	L	E		I	T	C	H			
I	S	R	A	E	L	C	B	S		G	H	E	N			
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5	7	3	2	8	6	9	4	1
2	1	6	4	9	5	7	3	8
4	9	8	7	3	1	5	2	6
6	3	5	8	2	9	4	1	7
9	2	7	6	1	4	3	8	5
1	8	4	5	7	3	2	6	9
8	5	9	1	4	2	6	7	3
7	6	2	3	5	8	1	9	4
3	4	1	9	6	7	8	5	2



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Tompkins clinches playoff berth with win over Cinco Ranch

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

There was only one word Bobby Sanders could use to describe what he saw out of his Tompkins players on Tuesday night. One emotion that was overwhelming from the Falcons head coach towards his players and staff.

Proud. This was a team that had dealt with so much adversity this year, dealt with adversity in a season deciding game on Tuesday, all while being a team that did not have the same amount of size or physical talent as some of the Tompkins teams of the past.

But that didn't matter to Sanders and it didn't matter to his players, who for the fourth straight season clinched a playoff berth, beating Cinco Ranch 68-64 in a do or die game despite losing Luke Coughran, the team's leading scorer, to injury in the first quarter.

"This is the proudest I have been of a group of guys in 27 years of coaching," Sanders said. "We have 12 guys out of our 15 this year that were in their first year on varsity — they've had to learn so much this year and step up. For these guys to make the playoffs and make it in the fashion they did tonight, to show the fight they did — it was just an unbelievable effort by every single player on the floor. I'm so proud of them and especially of our seniors."

It was a season deciding game for both Tompkins and Cinco Ranch, where a win for the Cougars would have

forced a play-in for the final play-off spot between the two teams again in the later week. It was a tight back and forth affair even in the early minutes and when Coughran went to the floor with an injury after hitting a 3-pointer late in the first quarter, there was a chance things could have gone badly for the Falcons afterwards.

But Tompkins rallied immediately, and despite going down 42-35 at halftime, climbed back into it and took the lead by one-point heading into the final quarter.

"A lot of people doubted us this year and we wanted to come out and prove them wrong," said senior point guard Owen Craig. "It felt great to do that — to come out show what we could do and even when we weren't at full strength still be able to get the win. It was just a surreal experience."

The Falcons changed gears in the fourth quarter and slowed the game down. Tompkins relied on execution as they held on to the



Luke Coughran drives the baseline during Tuesday's game between Tompkins and Cinco Ranch at the Tompkins gym. PHOTOS BY TYLER TYRE



Scottie Guillory shoots a fadeaway during Tuesday's game between Tompkins and Cinco Ranch at the Tompkins gym.

lead and withstood Cinco Ranch's efforts on both the offensive and defensive end to come away with the win.

"These guys may not have been at the varsity level for multiple years, but they all are poised and know how to win," Sanders said. "They had won games at the freshman level, the JV level and at the varsity level this year and they knew how to execute down the stretch. They just showed

so much poise at the end."

The Falcons advance to the playoffs, where they will meet Fort Bend Hightower in the bi-district round (time, date and location to be determined). While Tompkins is thrilled to have had its hard work pay off, they still feel like there's more they can do, and they're out to keep proving people wrong.

"We aren't a group that is ever going to give up," said senior guard Greg Ilagan. "We are going to battle, we're going to push through and fight no matter what. That's how we've been coached and that's what this program is about. Tonight was huge, but we're not done."

District 19-6A TOMPKINS 68, CINCO RANCH 64

Points: (T) Owen Craig 14, Scottie Guillory 14, Greg Ilagan 11, Mason Hereford 11, Colton Collins 5, Luke Coughran 3, Josh Davis 3, Grant Schulenberg 3, Tiger Jackson 2, Emmanuel Paul 2; (CR) Drew Joyce 12, Prince Jones-Bynum 11, Nashir Waters 11, Josh Lennon 11, Emmanuel Gregory 6, Derek Kollmansberger 5, Harrison Moore 3;

Halftime: Cinco Ranch 42-35; 3-Pointers: (T) Hereford 3, Ilagan, Schulenberg, Collins, Guillory, Coughran; (CR) Jones-Bynum 2, Kollmansberger, Lennon; Records: Tompkins 21-13, 11-5; Cinco Ranch 20-13, 9-7;

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